DC COMICS™

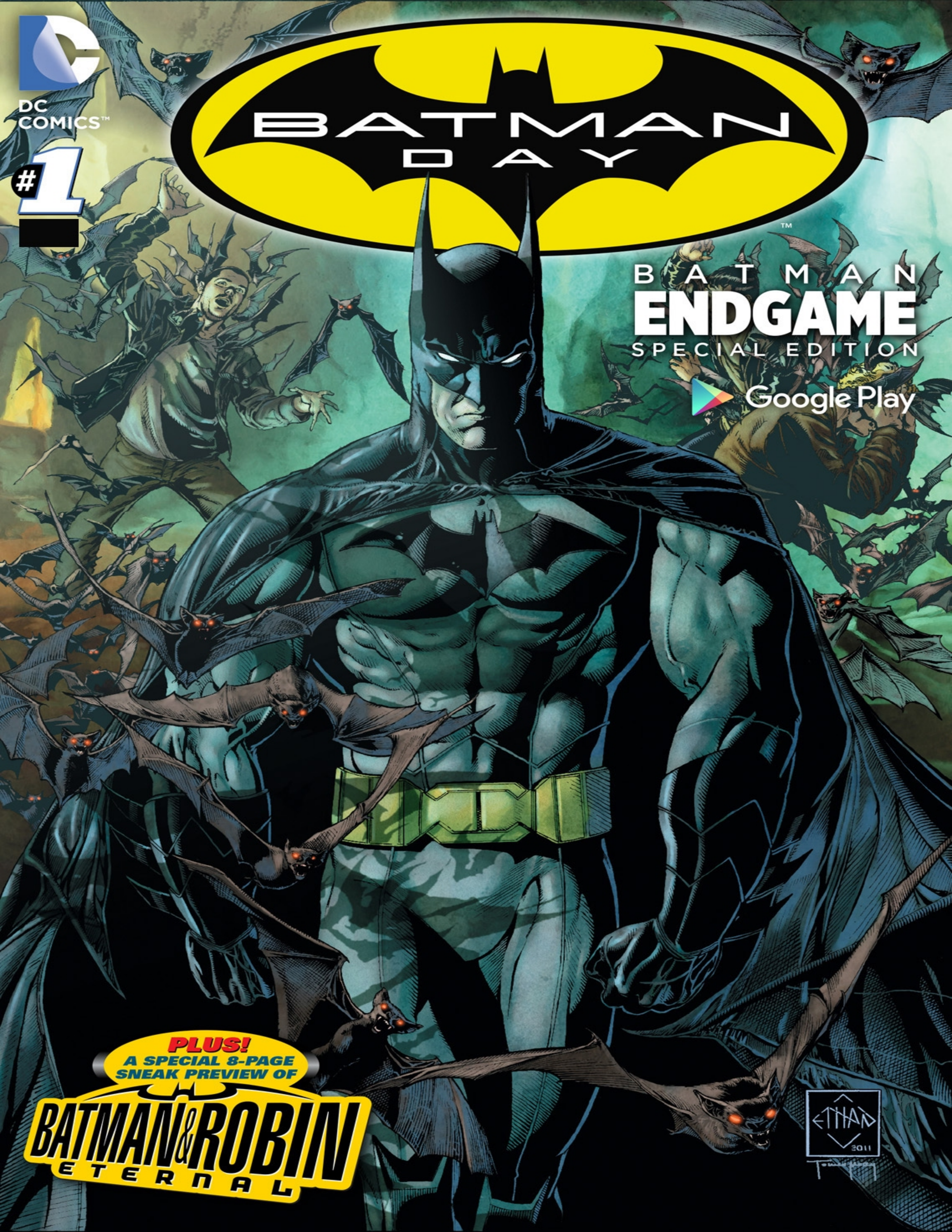
BATMAN DAY

#1

[redacted]

BATMAN ENDGAME
SPECIAL EDITION

Google Play



PLUS!
A SPECIAL 8-PAGE SNEAK PREVIEW OF

BATMAN & ROBIN ETERNAL

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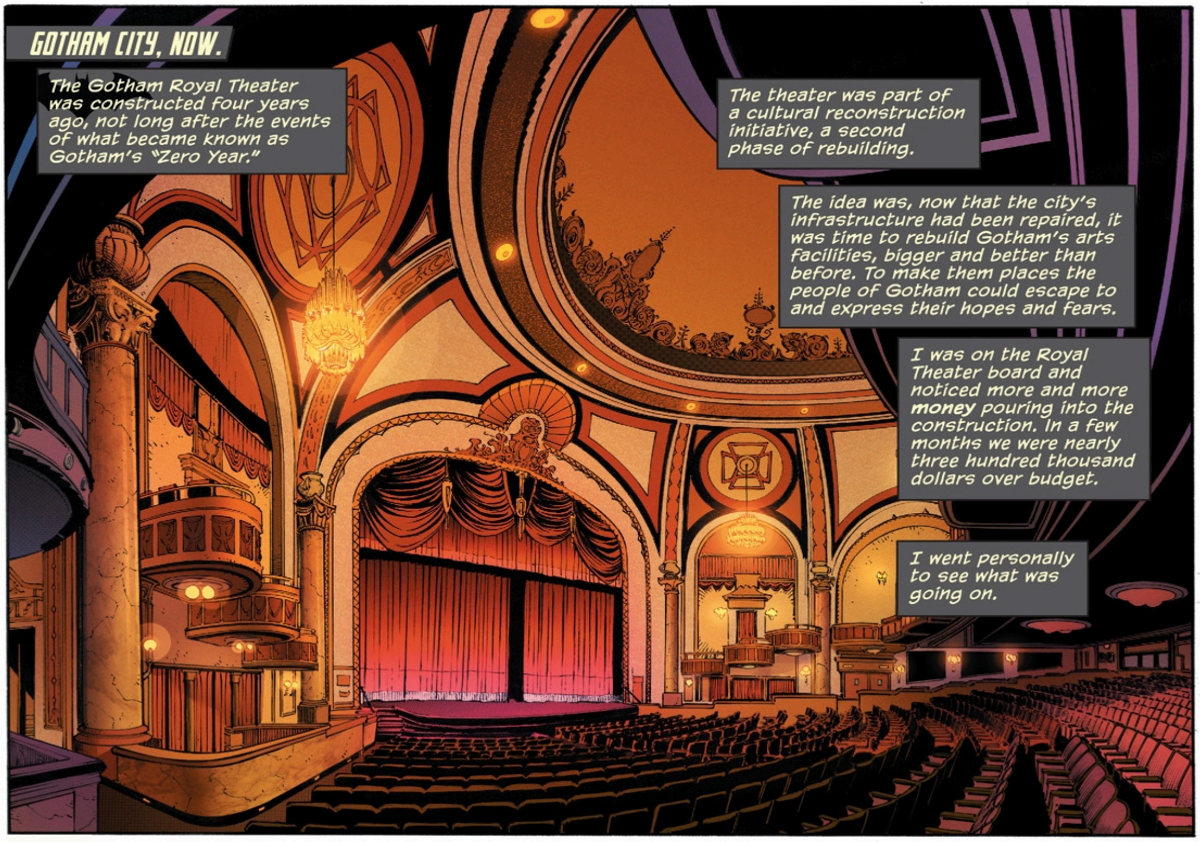
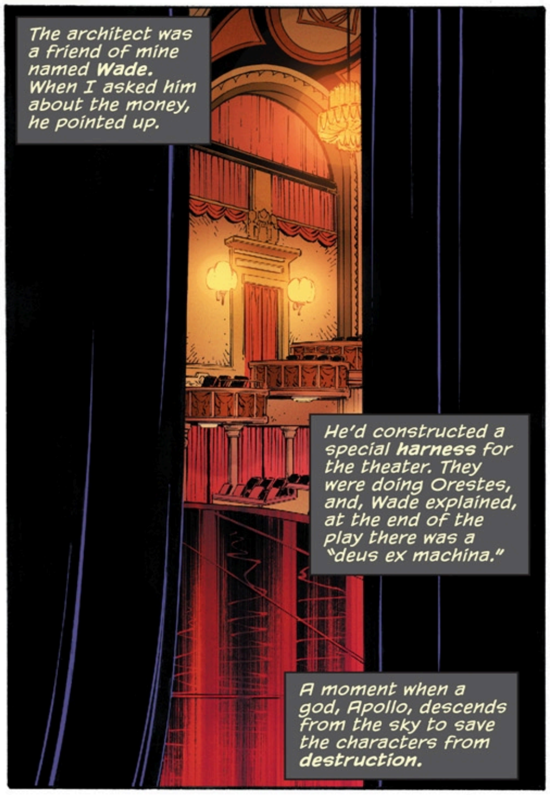
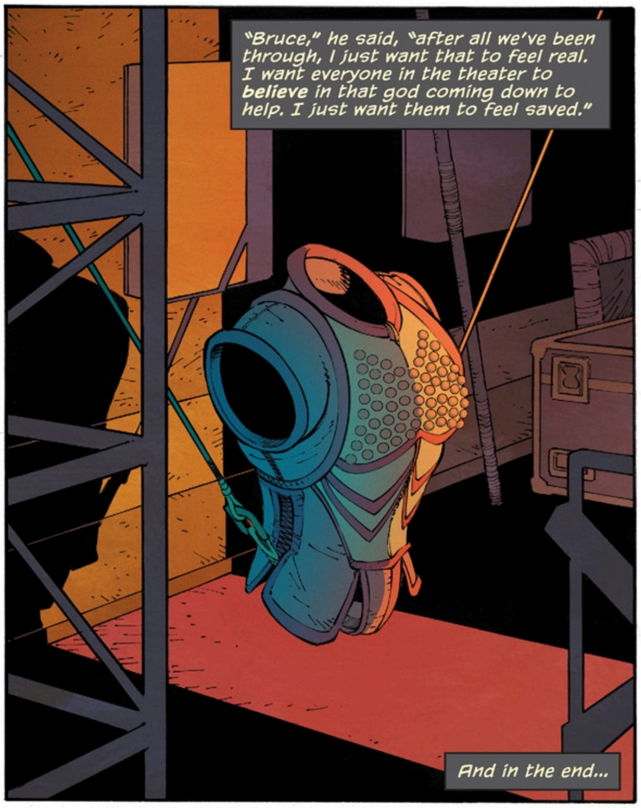
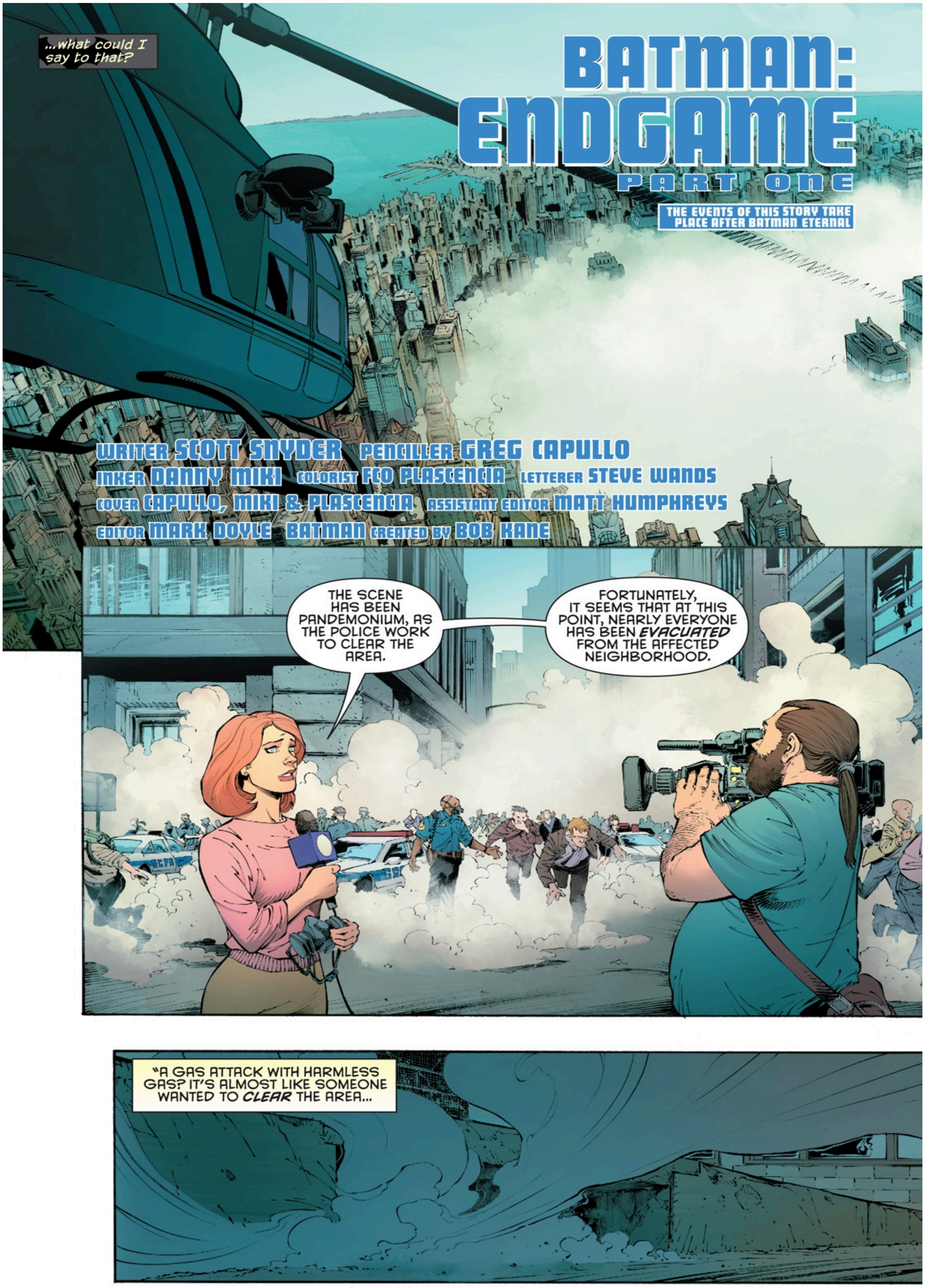

GOTHAM CITY, NOW.
The Gotham Royal Theater was constructed four years ago, not long after the events of what became known as Gotham's "Zero Year."
The theater was part of a cultural reconstruction initiative, a second phase of rebuilding.
The idea was, now that the city's infrastructure had been repaired, it was time to rebuild Gotham's arts facilities, bigger and better than before. To make them places the people of Gotham could escape to and express their hopes and fears.
I was on the Royal Theater board and noticed more and more **money** pouring into the construction. In a few months we were nearly three hundred thousand dollars over budget.
I went personally to see what was going on.


The architect was a friend of mine named **Wade.** When I asked him about the money, he pointed up.
He'd constructed a special **harness** for the theater. They were doing Orestes, and, Wade explained, at the end of the play there was a "deus ex machina."
A moment when a god, Apollo, descends from the sky to save the characters from **destruction.**


"Bruce," he said, "after all we've been through, I just want that to feel real. I want everyone in the theater to **believe** in that god coming down to help. I just want them to feel saved."
And in the end...



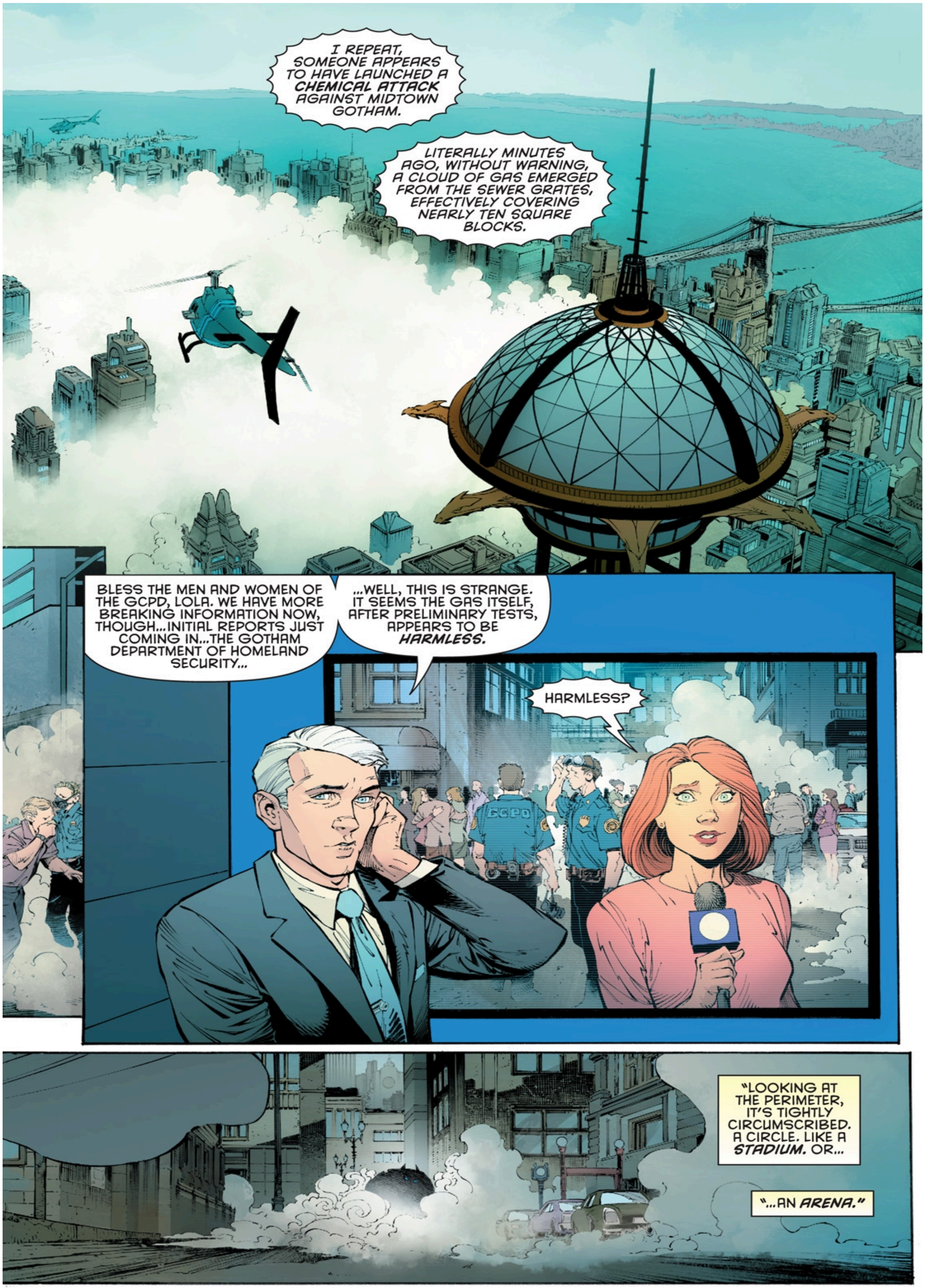
BATMAN: ENDGAME

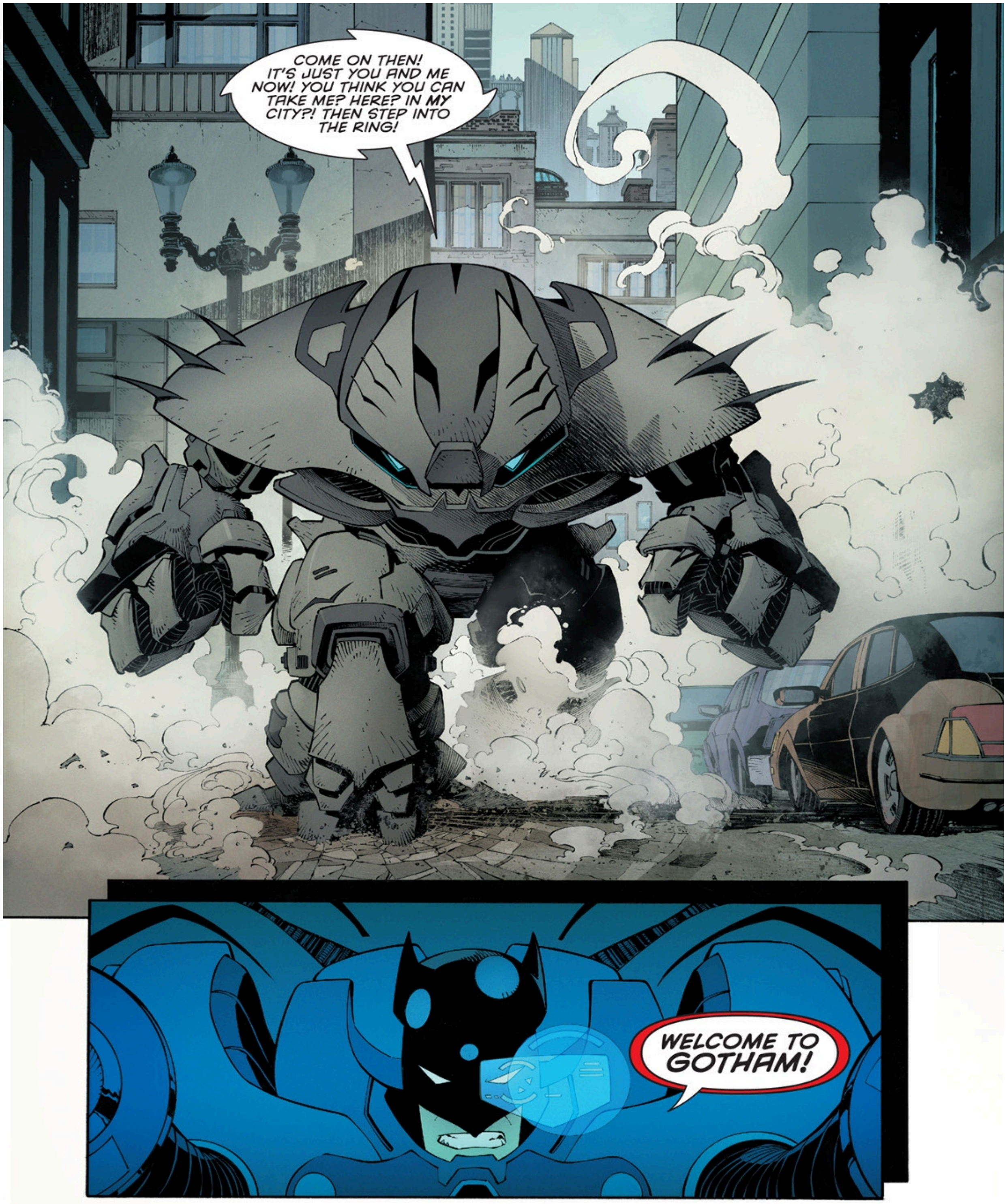
PART ONE

THE EVENTS OF THIS STORY TAKE PLACE AFTER BATMAN ETERNAL

WRITER SCOTT SNYDER PENCILLER GREG CAPULLO
INKER DANNY MIKI COLORIST FCO PLASCENCIA LETTERER STEVE WANDS
COVER CAPULLO, MIKI & PLASCENCIA ASSISTANT EDITOR MATT HUMPHREYS
EDITOR MARK DOYLE BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

...what could I say to that?
THE SCENE HAS BEEN PANDEMONIUM, AS THE POLICE WORK TO CLEAR THE AREA.
FORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS THAT AT THIS POINT, NEARLY EVERYONE HAS BEEN *EVACUATED* FROM THE AFFECTED NEIGHBORHOOD.
GCPD
"A GAS ATTACK WITH HARMLESS GAS? IT'S ALMOST LIKE SOMEONE WANTED TO *CLEAR* THE AREA...


I REPEAT, SOMEONE APPEARS TO HAVE LAUNCHED A **CHEMICAL ATTACK** AGAINST MIDTOWN GOTHAM.
LITERALLY MINUTES AGO, WITHOUT WARNING, A CLOUD OF GAS EMERGED FROM THE SEWER GRATES, EFFECTIVELY COVERING NEARLY TEN SQUARE BLOCKS.
BLESS THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GCPD, LOLA. WE HAVE MORE BREAKING INFORMATION NOW, THOUGH...INITIAL REPORTS JUST COMING IN...THE GOTHAM DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY...
...WELL, THIS IS STRANGE. IT SEEMS THE GAS ITSELF, AFTER PRELIMINARY TESTS, APPEARS TO BE ***HARMLESS.***
HARMLESS?
GCPD
"LOOKING AT THE PERIMETER, IT'S TIGHTLY CIRCUMSCRIBED. A CIRCLE. LIKE A ***STADIUM.*** OR...
"...AN ***ARENA.***"


COME ON THEN! IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW! YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME? HERE? IN MY CITY?! THEN STEP INTO THE RING!
WELCOME TO GOTHAM!

DC COMICS BOB HARRAS Senior VP – Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics DIANE NELSON President DAN DIDIO and JIM LEE Co-Publishers GEOFF JOHNS Chief Creative Officer AMIT DESAI Senior VP – Marketing & Global Franchise Management NAIRI GARDINER Senior VP – Finance SAM ADES VP - Digital Marketing BOBBIE CHASE VP - Talent Development MARK CHIARELLO Senior VP – Art, Design & Collected Editions JOHN CUNNINGHAM VP – Content Strategy ANNE DEPIES VP – Strategy Planning & Reporting Don Falletti – VP - Manufacturing Operations LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Editorial Administration & Talent Relations ALISON GILL Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations HANK KANALZ Senior VP – Editorial Strategy & Administration JAY KOGAN VP – Legal Affairs DEREK MADDALENA Senior VP – Sales & Business Development DAN MIRON – VP - Sales Planning & Trade Development Nick NAPOLITANO VP – Manufacturing Administration CAROL ROEDER VP – Marketing EDDIE SCANNELL VP – Mass Account & Digital Sales SUSAN SHEPPARD VP – Business Affairs COURTNEY SIMMONS Senior VP – Publicity & Communications JIM (SKI) SOKOLOWSKI VP – Comic Book Specialty & Newsstand Sales

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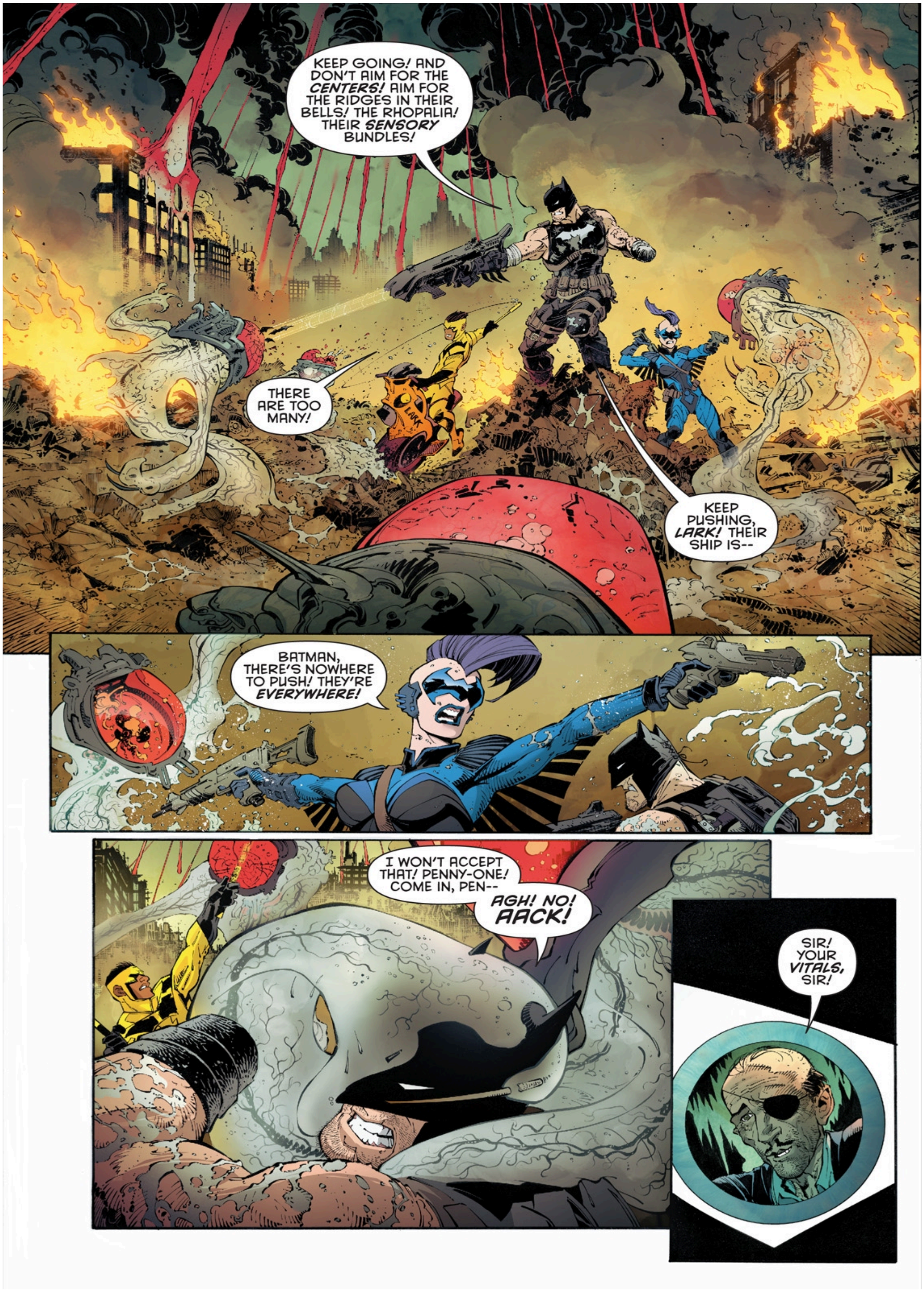
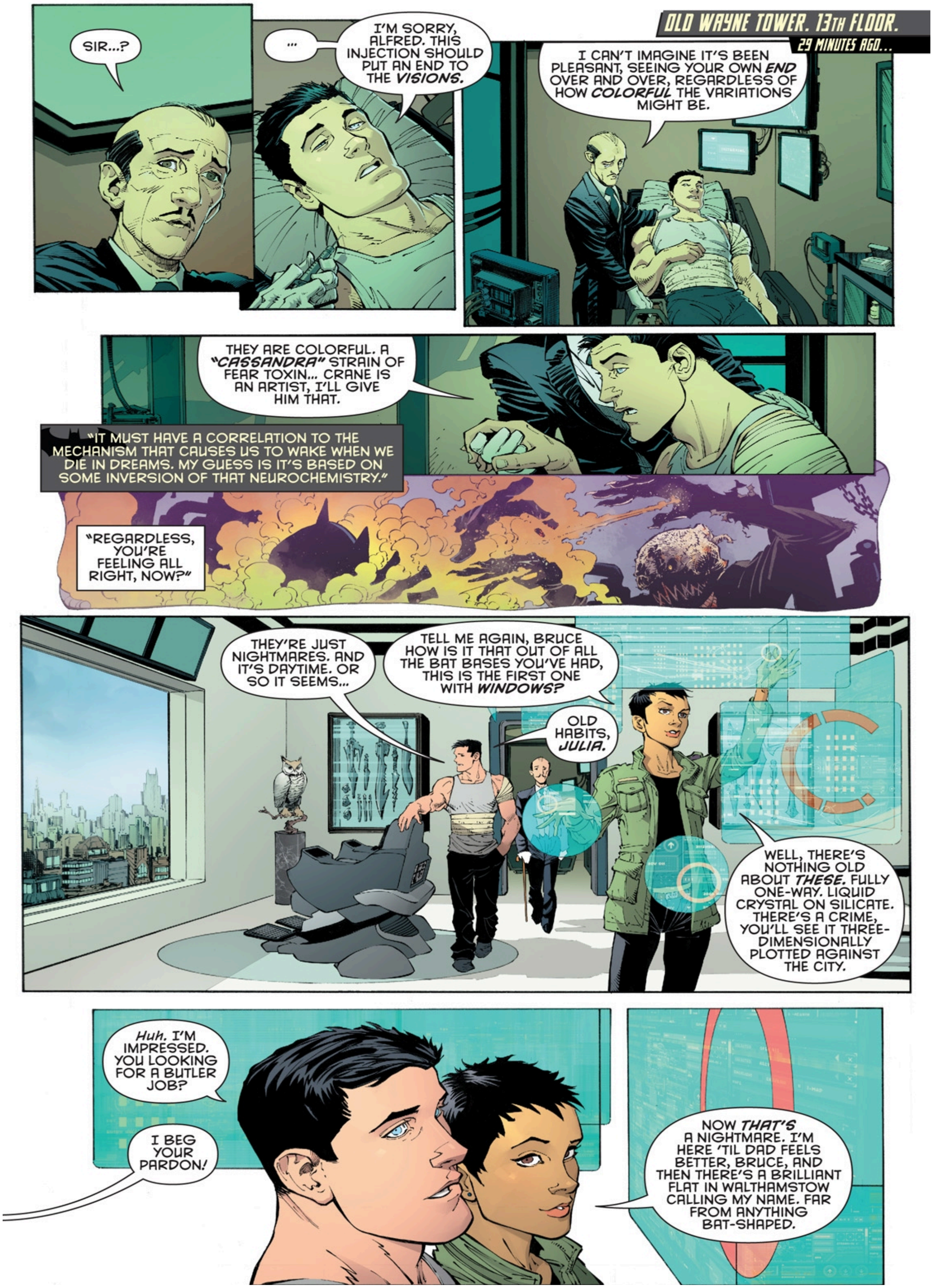
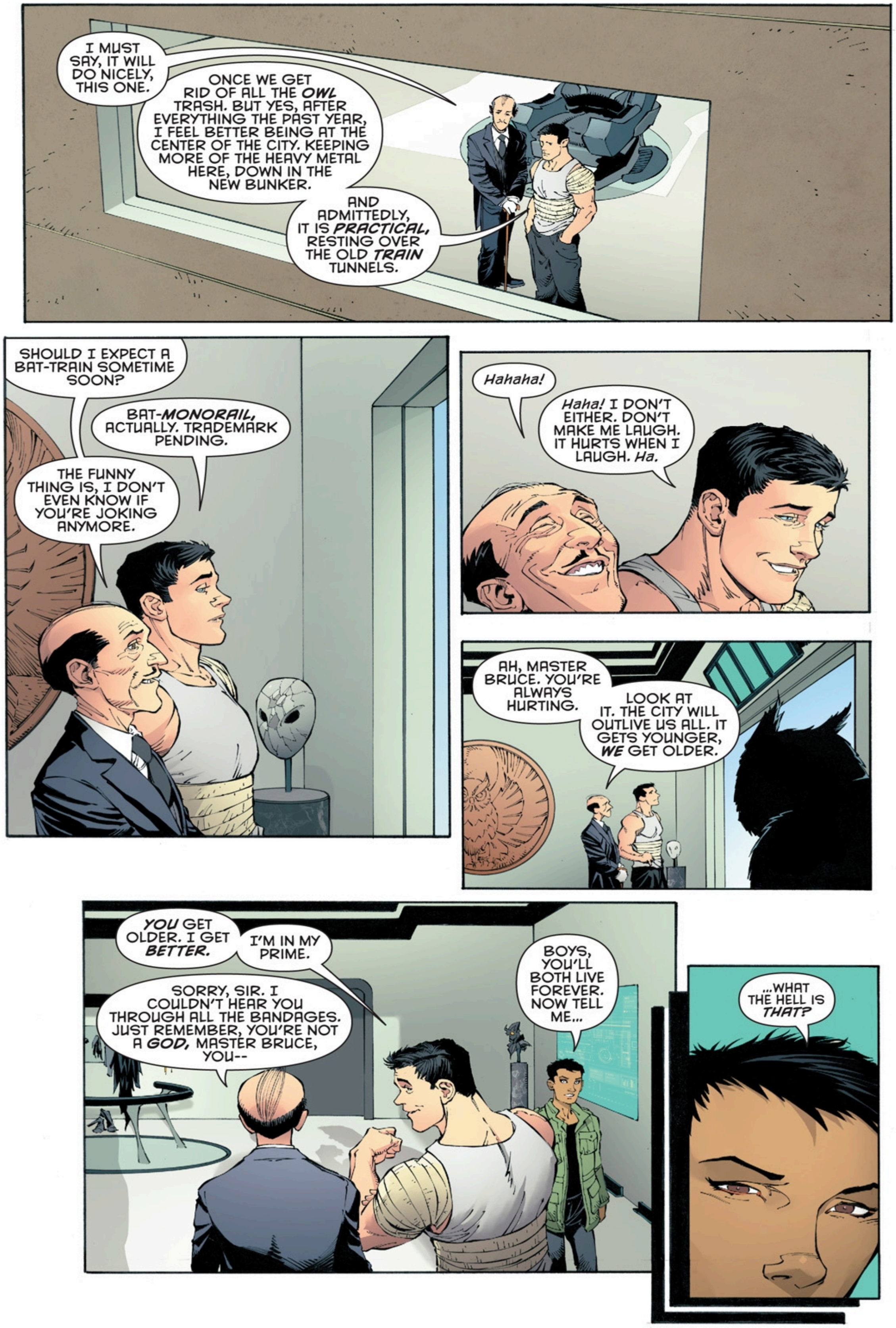
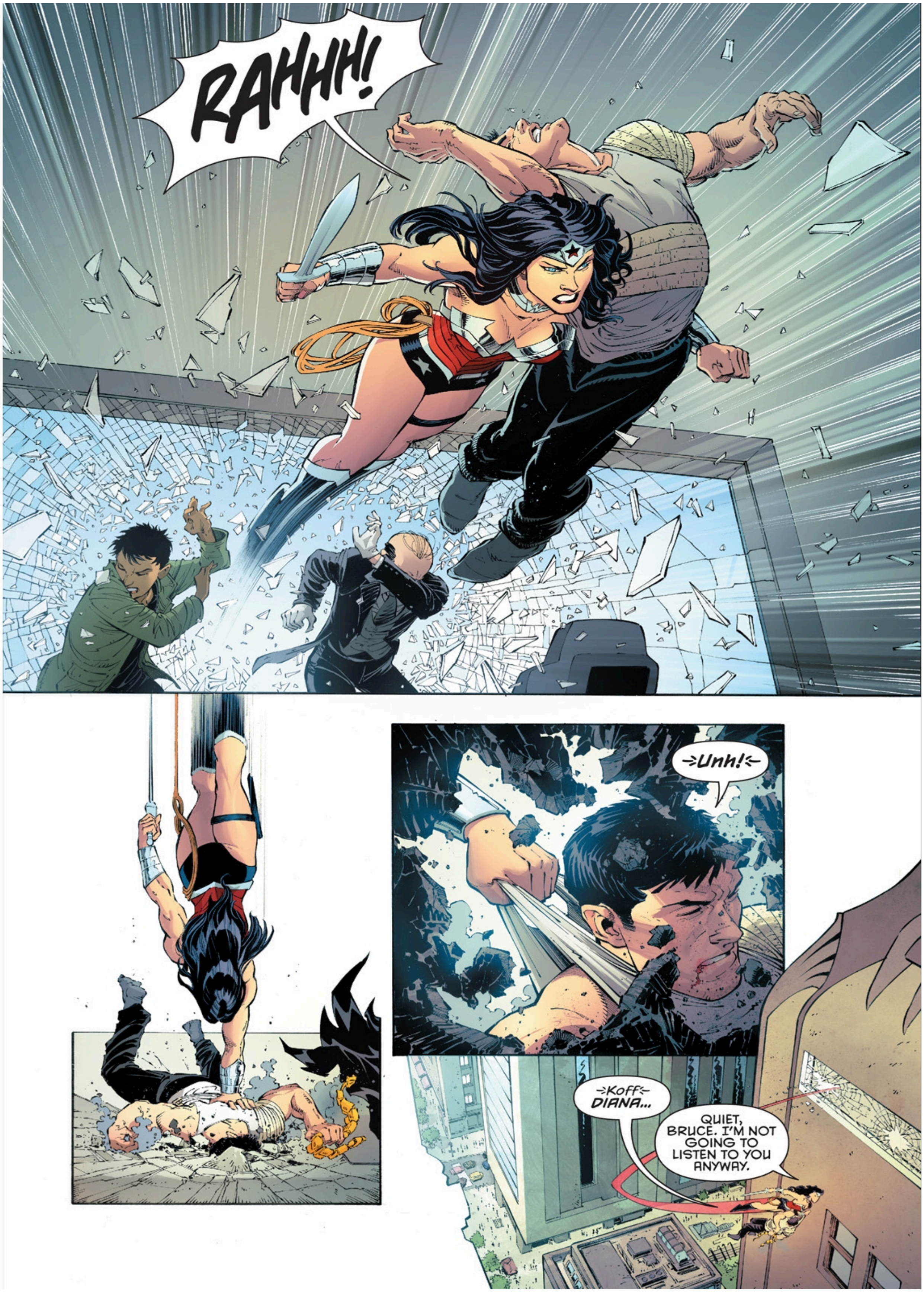
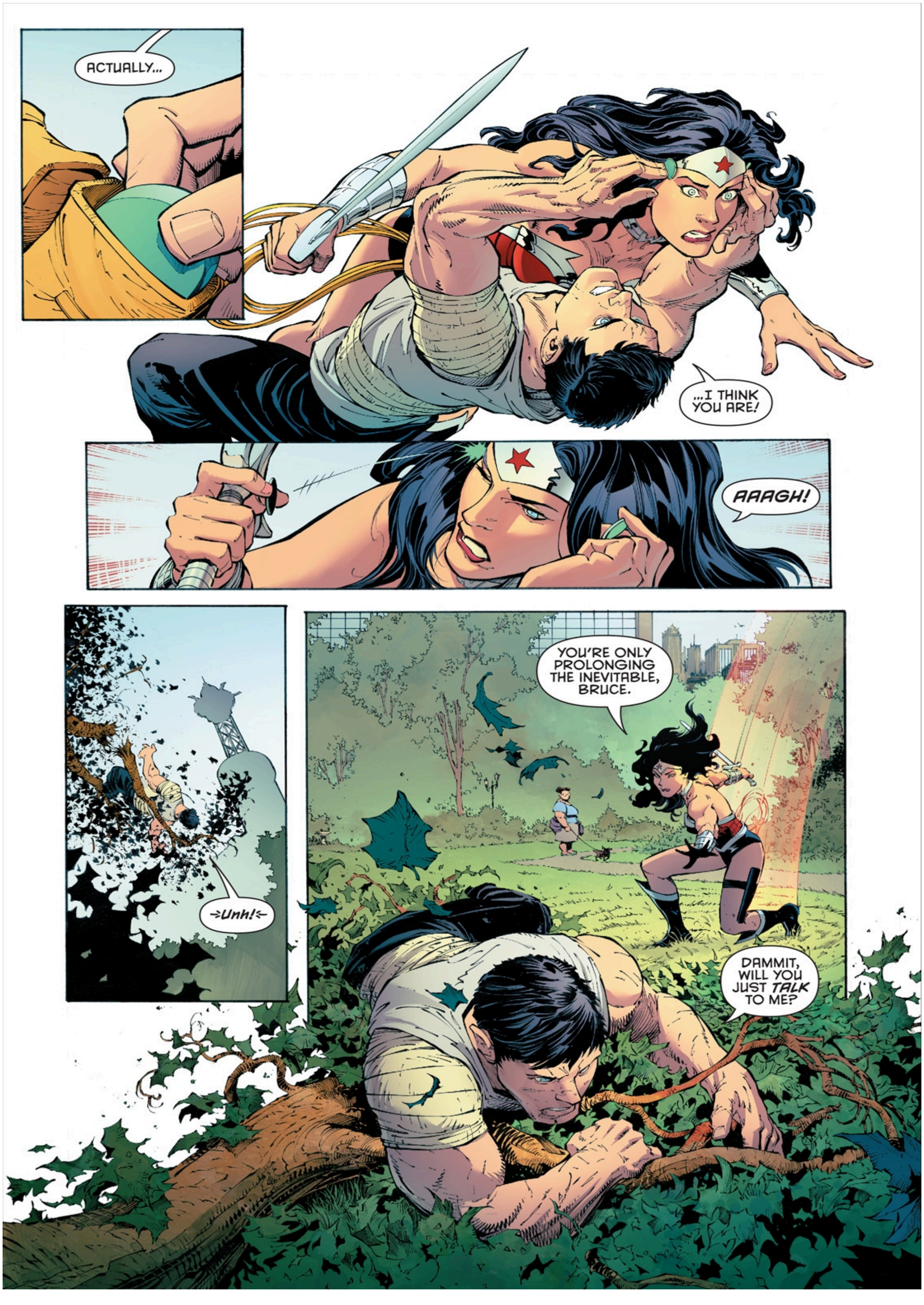
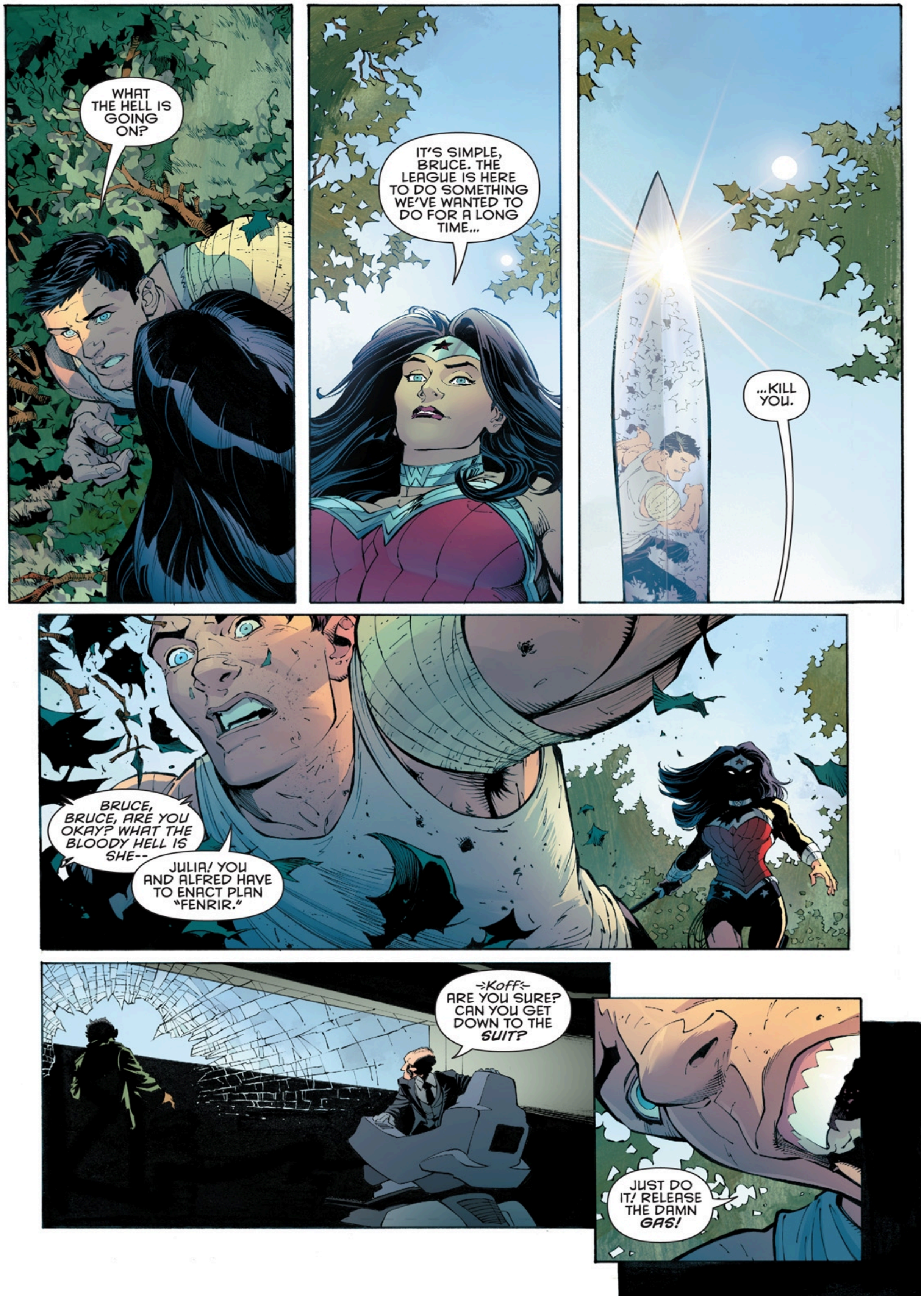

KEEP GOING! AND DON'T AIM FOR THE *CENTERS!* AIM FOR THE RIDGES IN THEIR BELLS! THE RHOPALIA! THEIR *SENSORY* BUNDLES!
THERE ARE TOO MANY!
KEEP PUSHING, *LARK!* THEIR SHIP IS--
BATMAN, THERE'S NOWHERE TO PUSH! THEY'RE *EVERYWHERE!*
I WON'T ACCEPT THAT! PENNY-ONE! COME IN, PEN--
AGH! NO! AACK!
SIR! YOUR *VITALS,* SIR!

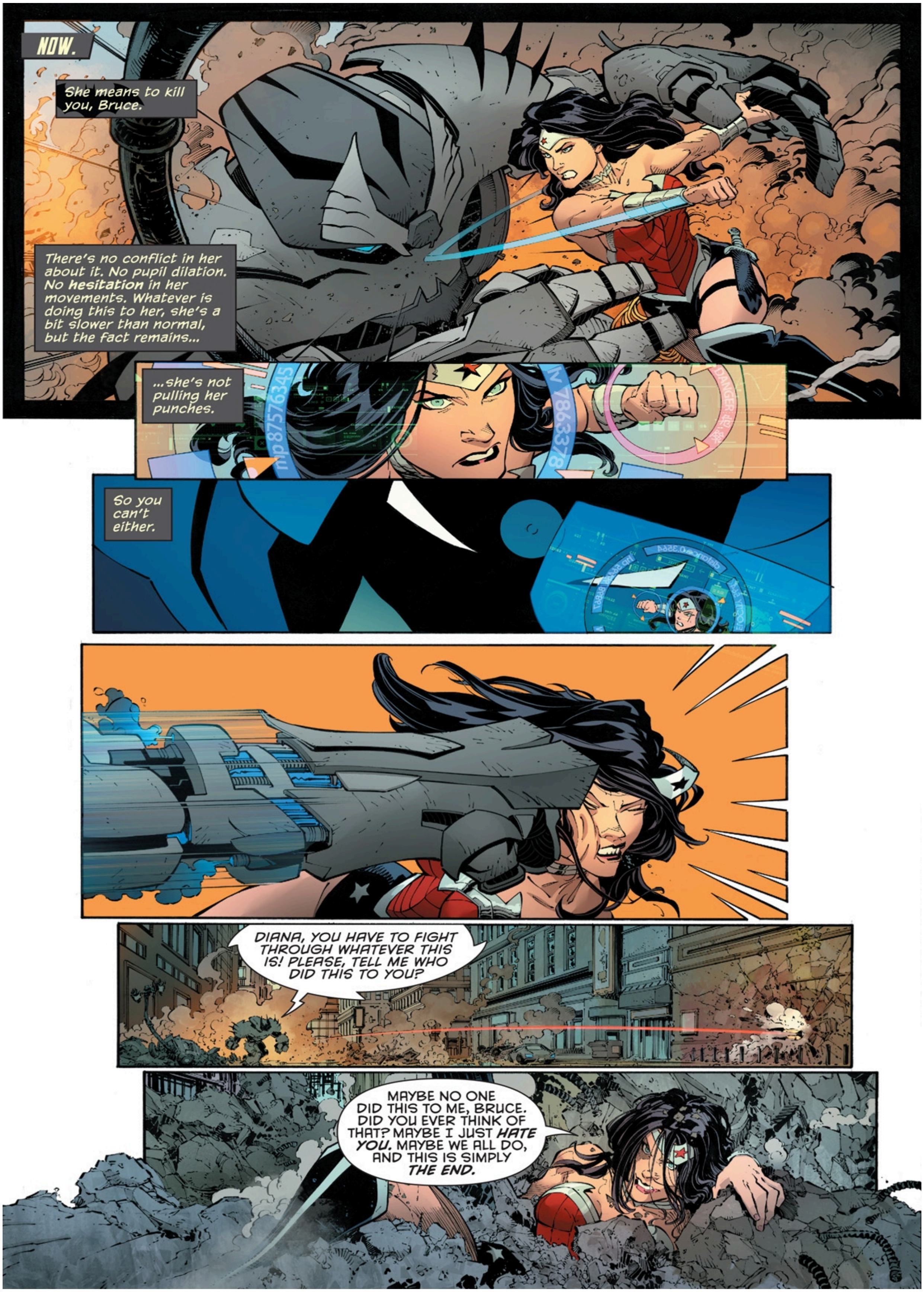

SIR...?
...
I'M SORRY, ALFRED. THIS INJECTION SHOULD PUT AN END TO THE *VISIONS.*
OLD WAYNE TOWER. 13th FLOOR.
29 MINUTES AGO...
I CAN'T IMAGINE IT'S BEEN PLEASANT, SEEING YOUR OWN *END* OVER AND OVER, REGARDLESS OF HOW *COLORFUL* THE VARIATIONS MIGHT BE.
THEY ARE COLORFUL. A *"CASSANDRA"* STRAIN OF FEAR TOXIN... CRANE IS AN ARTIST, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT.
"IT MUST HAVE A CORRELATION TO THE MECHANISM THAT CAUSES US TO WAKE WHEN WE DIE IN DREAMS. MY GUESS IS IT'S BASED ON SOME INVERSION OF THAT NEUROCHEMISTRY."
"REGARDLESS, YOU'RE FEELING ALL RIGHT, NOW?"
THEY'RE JUST NIGHTMARES. AND IT'S DAYTIME. OR SO IT SEEMS...
TELL ME AGAIN, BRUCE HOW IS IT THAT OUT OF ALL THE BAT BASES YOU'VE HAD, THIS IS THE FIRST ONE WITH *WINDOWS?*
OLD HABITS, *JULIA.*
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING OLD ABOUT *THESE.* FULLY ONE-WAY. LIQUID CRYSTAL ON SILICATE. THERE'S A CRIME, YOU'LL SEE IT THREE-DIMENSIONALLY PLOTTED AGAINST THE CITY.
Huh. I'M IMPRESSED. YOU LOOKING FOR A BUTLER JOB?
I BEG YOUR PARDON!
NOW *THAT'S* A NIGHTMARE. I'M HERE 'TIL DAD FEELS BETTER, BRUCE, AND THEN THERE'S A BRILLIANT FLAT IN WALTHAMSTOW CALLING MY NAME. FAR FROM ANYTHING BAT-SHAPED.

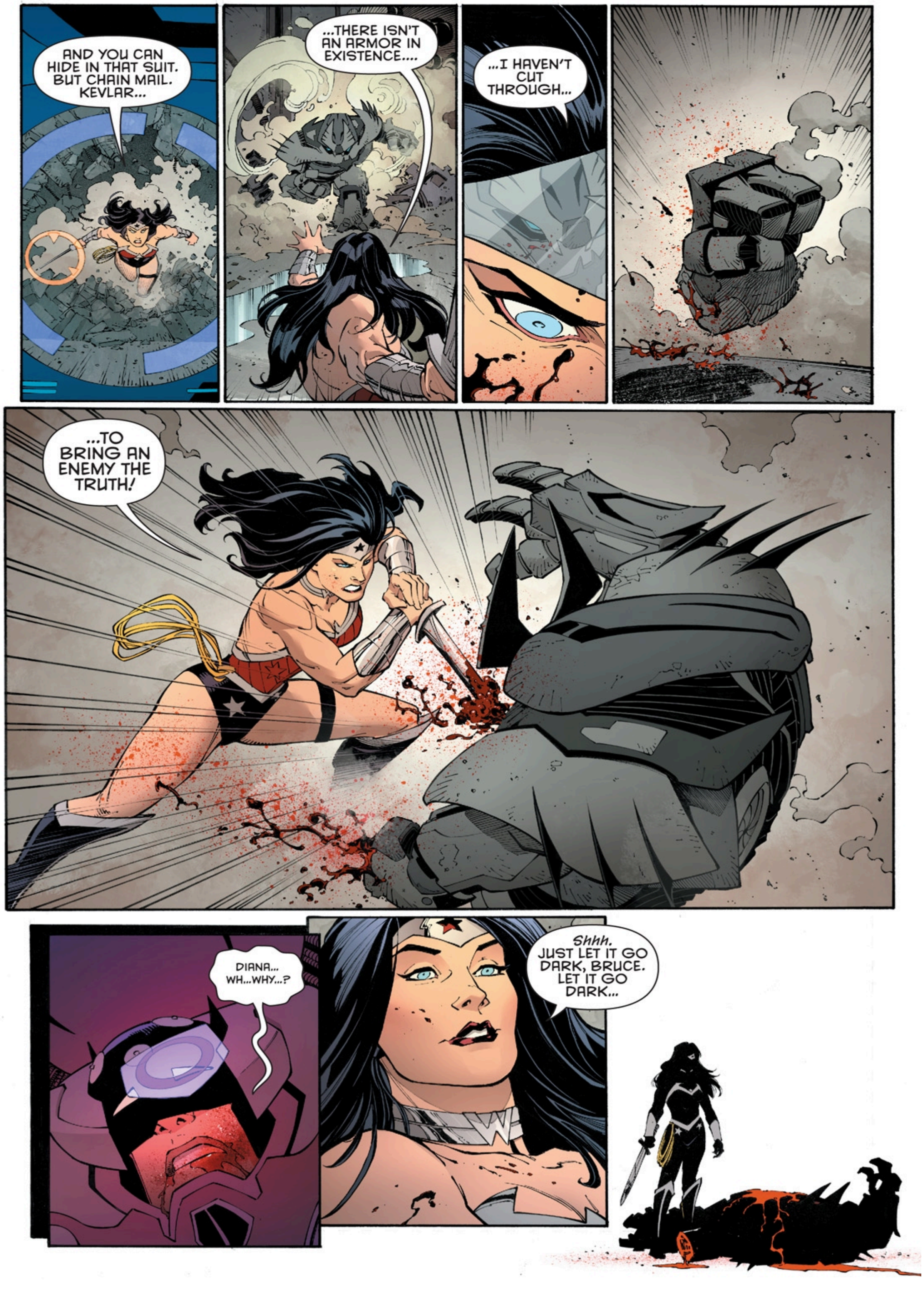

I MUST SAY, IT WILL DO NICELY, THIS ONE.
ONCE WE GET RID OF ALL THE *OWL* TRASH. BUT YES, AFTER EVERYTHING THE PAST YEAR, I FEEL BETTER BEING AT THE CENTER OF THE CITY. KEEPING MORE OF THE HEAVY METAL HERE, DOWN IN THE NEW BUNKER.
AND ADMITTEDLY, IT IS *PRACTICAL,* RESTING OVER THE OLD *TRAIN* TUNNELS.
SHOULD I EXPECT A BAT-TRAIN SOMETIME SOON?
BAT-*MONORAIL,* ACTUALLY. TRADEMARK PENDING.
THE FUNNY THING IS, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU'RE JOKING ANYMORE.
Hahaha!
Haha! I DON'T EITHER. DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. IT HURTS WHEN I LAUGH. *Ha.*
AH, MASTER BRUCE. YOU'RE ALWAYS HURTING.
LOOK AT IT. THE CITY WILL OUTLIVE US ALL. IT GETS YOUNGER, *WE* GET OLDER.
YOU GET OLDER. I GET *BETTER.*
I'M IN MY PRIME.
SORRY, SIR. I COULDN'T HEAR YOU THROUGH ALL THE BANDAGES. JUST REMEMBER, YOU'RE NOT A *GOD,* MASTER BRUCE, YOU--
BOYS, YOU'LL BOTH LIVE FOREVER. NOW TELL ME...
...WHAT THE HELL IS *THAT?*

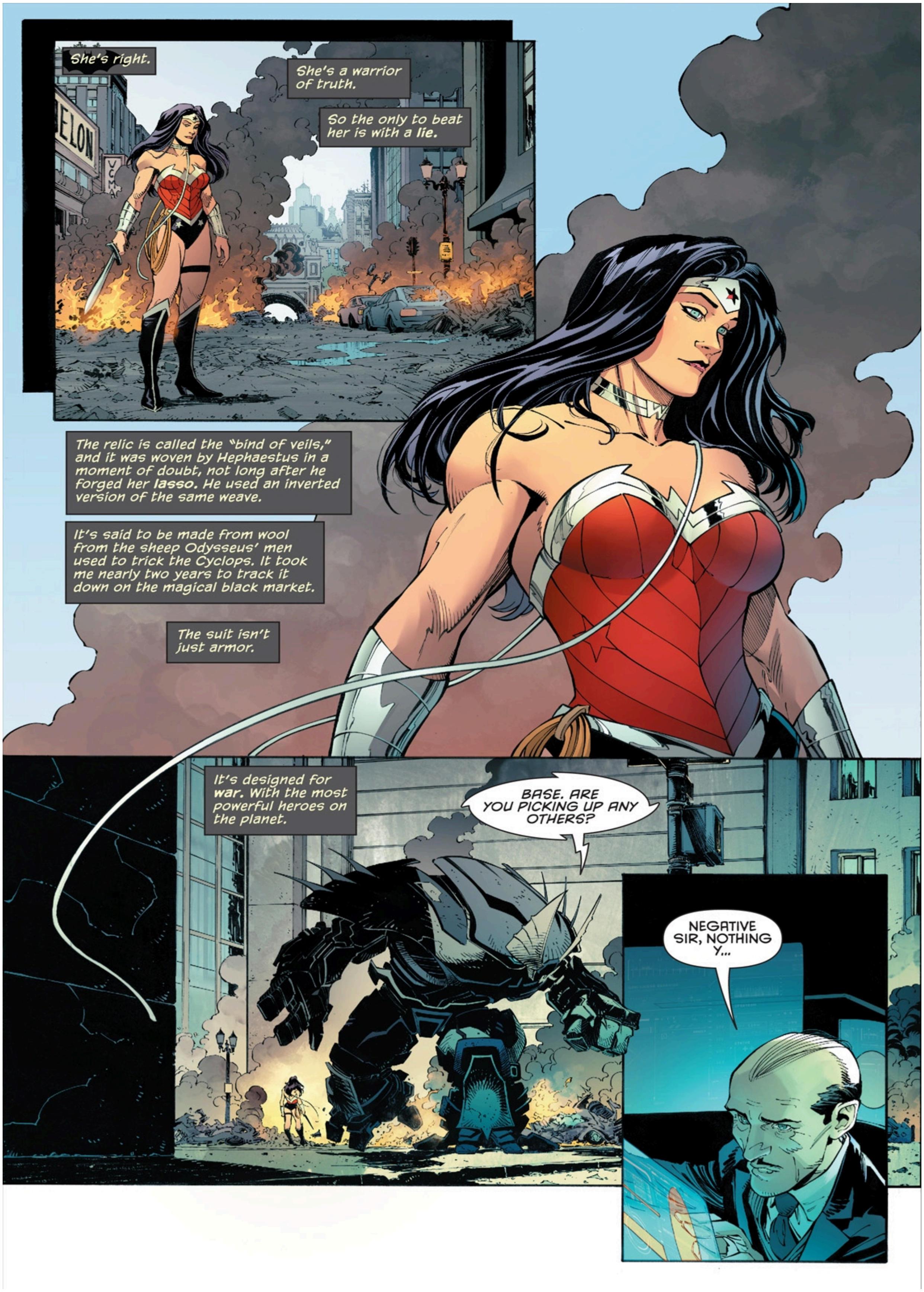

RAHHH!
Unh!
Koff DIANA...
QUIET, BRUCE. I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO YOU ANYWAY.

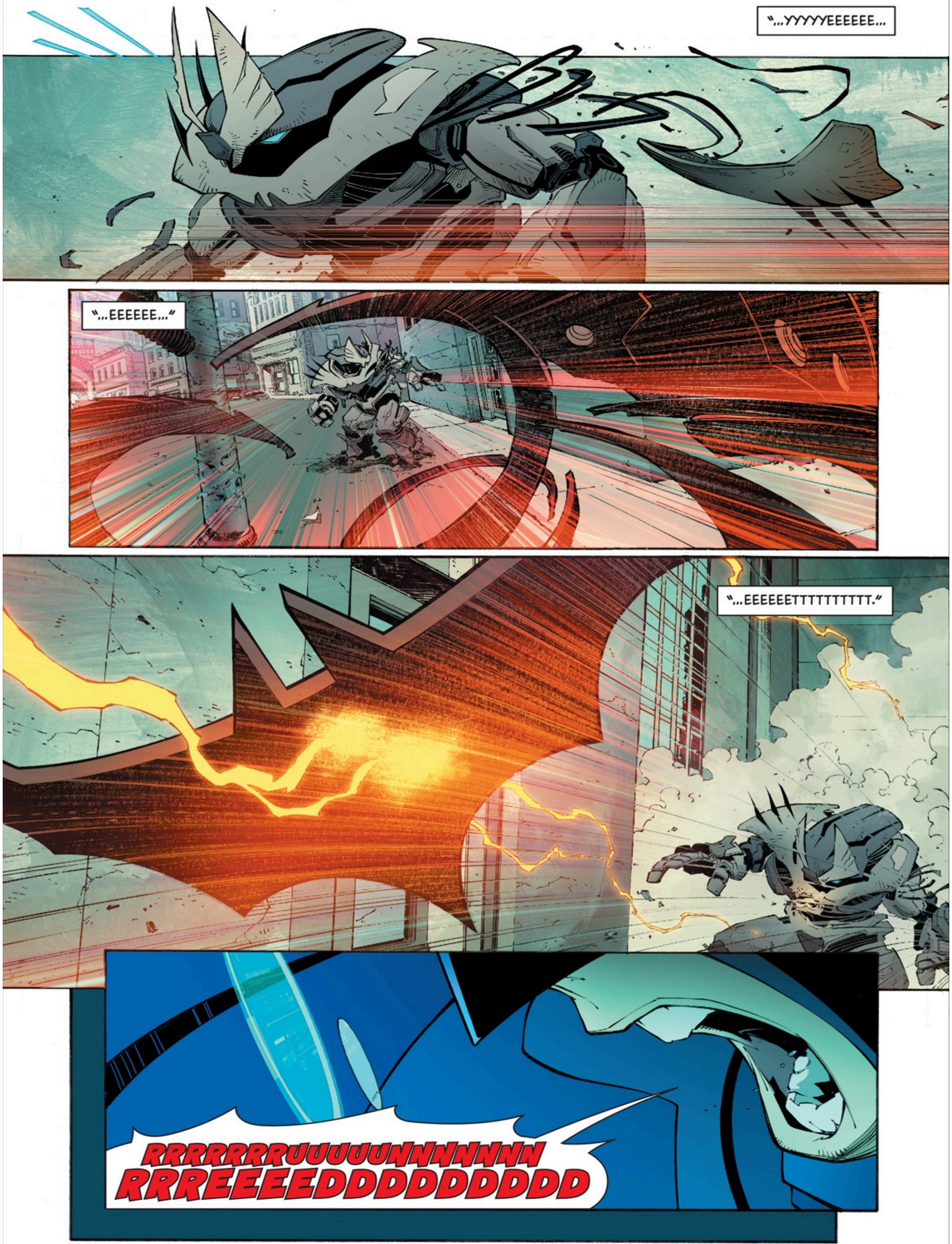

ACTUALLY...
...I THINK YOU ARE!
AAAGH!
~Unh!~
YOU'RE ONLY PROLONGING THE INEVITABLE, BRUCE.
DAMMIT, WILL YOU JUST *TALK* TO ME?

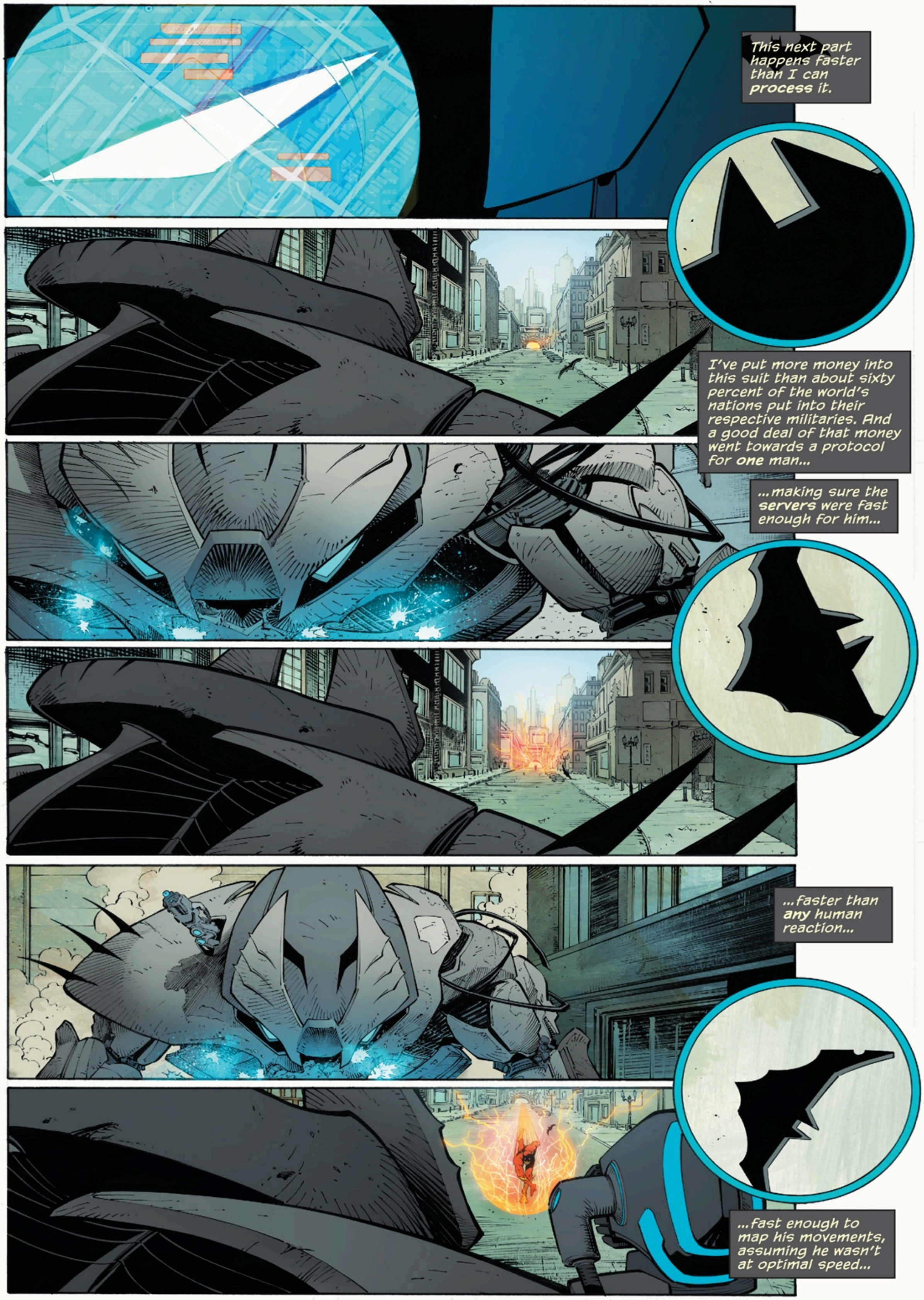

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
IT'S SIMPLE, BRUCE. THE LEAGUE IS HERE TO DO SOMETHING WE'VE WANTED TO DO FOR A LONG TIME...
...KILL YOU.
BRUCE, BRUCE, ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT THE BLOODY HELL IS SHE--
JULIA! YOU AND ALFRED HAVE TO ENACT PLAN "FENRIR."
-KOFF-
ARE YOU SURE? CAN YOU GET DOWN TO THE *SUIT?*
JUST DO IT! RELEASE THE DAMN *GAS!*

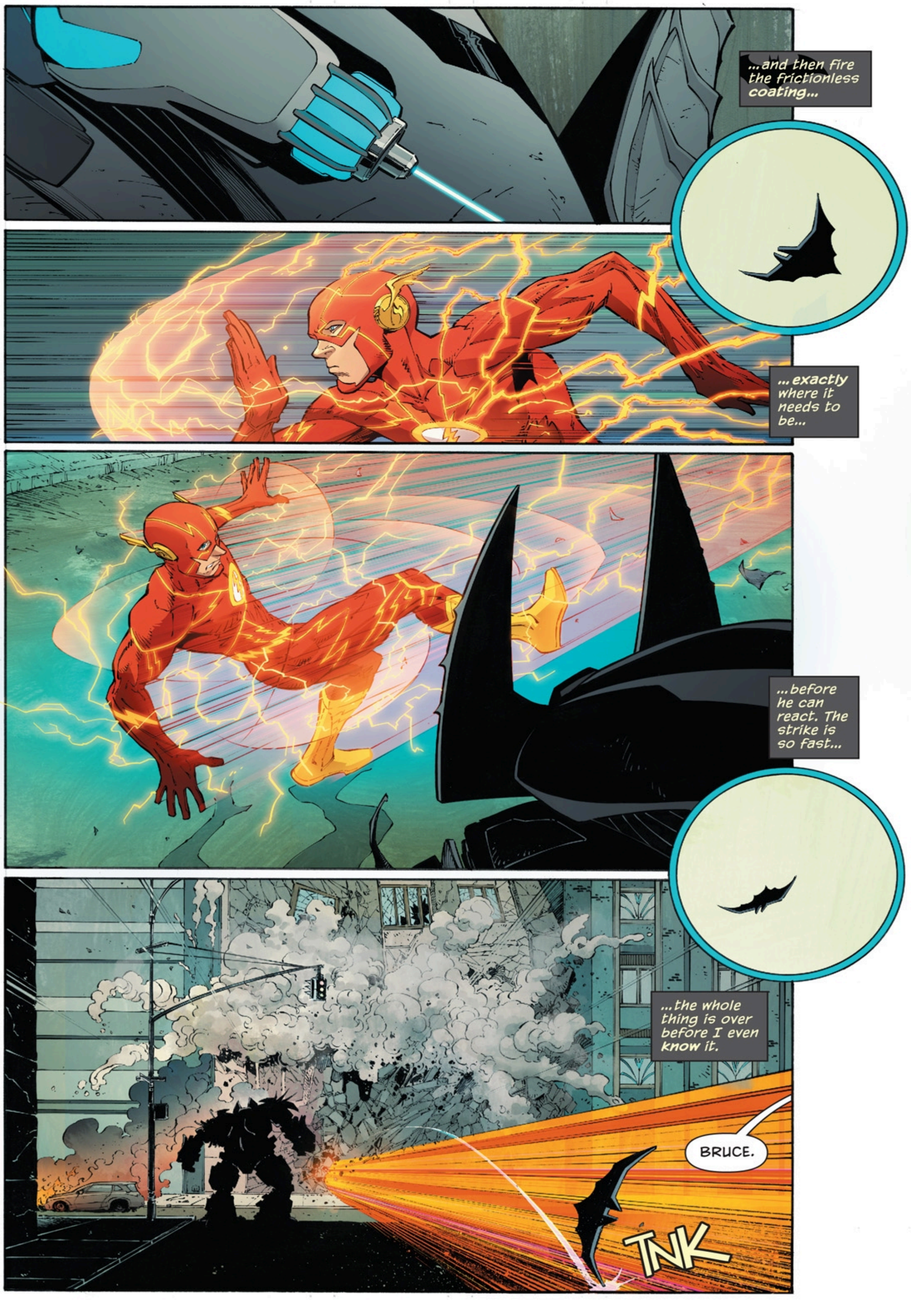

NOW.
She means to kill you, Bruce.
There's no conflict in her about it. No pupil dilation. No **hesitation** in her movements. Whatever is doing this to her, she's a bit slower than normal, but the fact remains...
...she's not pulling her punches.
So you can't either.
DIANA, YOU HAVE TO FIGHT THROUGH WHATEVER THIS IS! PLEASE, TELL ME WHO DID THIS TO YOU?
MAYBE NO ONE DID THIS TO ME, BRUCE. DID YOU EVER THINK OF THAT? MAYBE I JUST ***HATE YOU.*** MAYBE WE ALL DO, AND THIS IS SIMPLY ***THE END.***

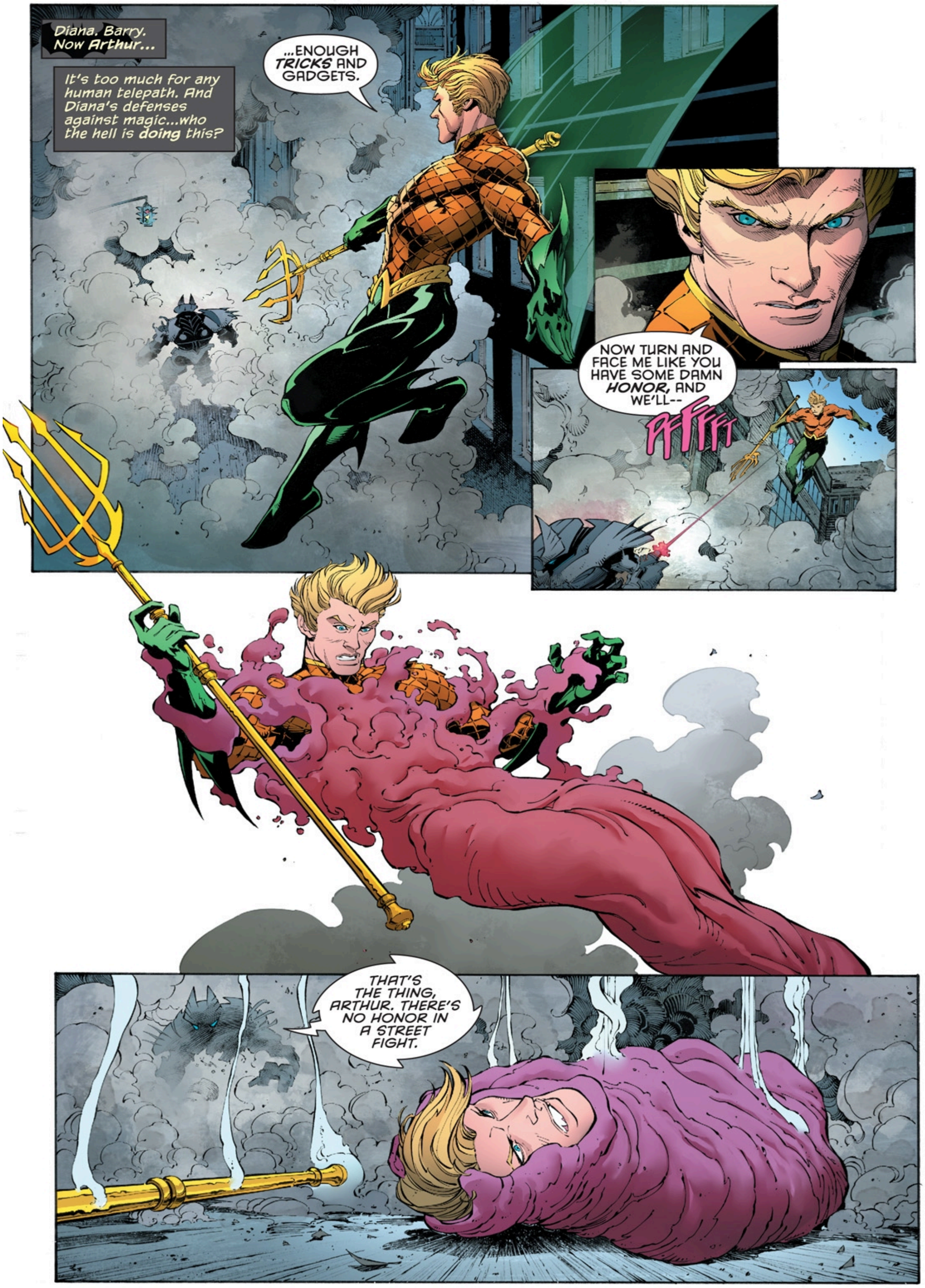

AND YOU CAN HIDE IN THAT SUIT. BUT CHAIN MAIL. KEVLAR...
...THERE ISN'T AN ARMOR IN EXISTENCE....
...I HAVEN'T CUT THROUGH...
...TO BRING AN ENEMY THE TRUTH!
DIANA... WH...WHY...?
Shhh. JUST LET IT GO DARK, BRUCE. LET IT GO DARK...

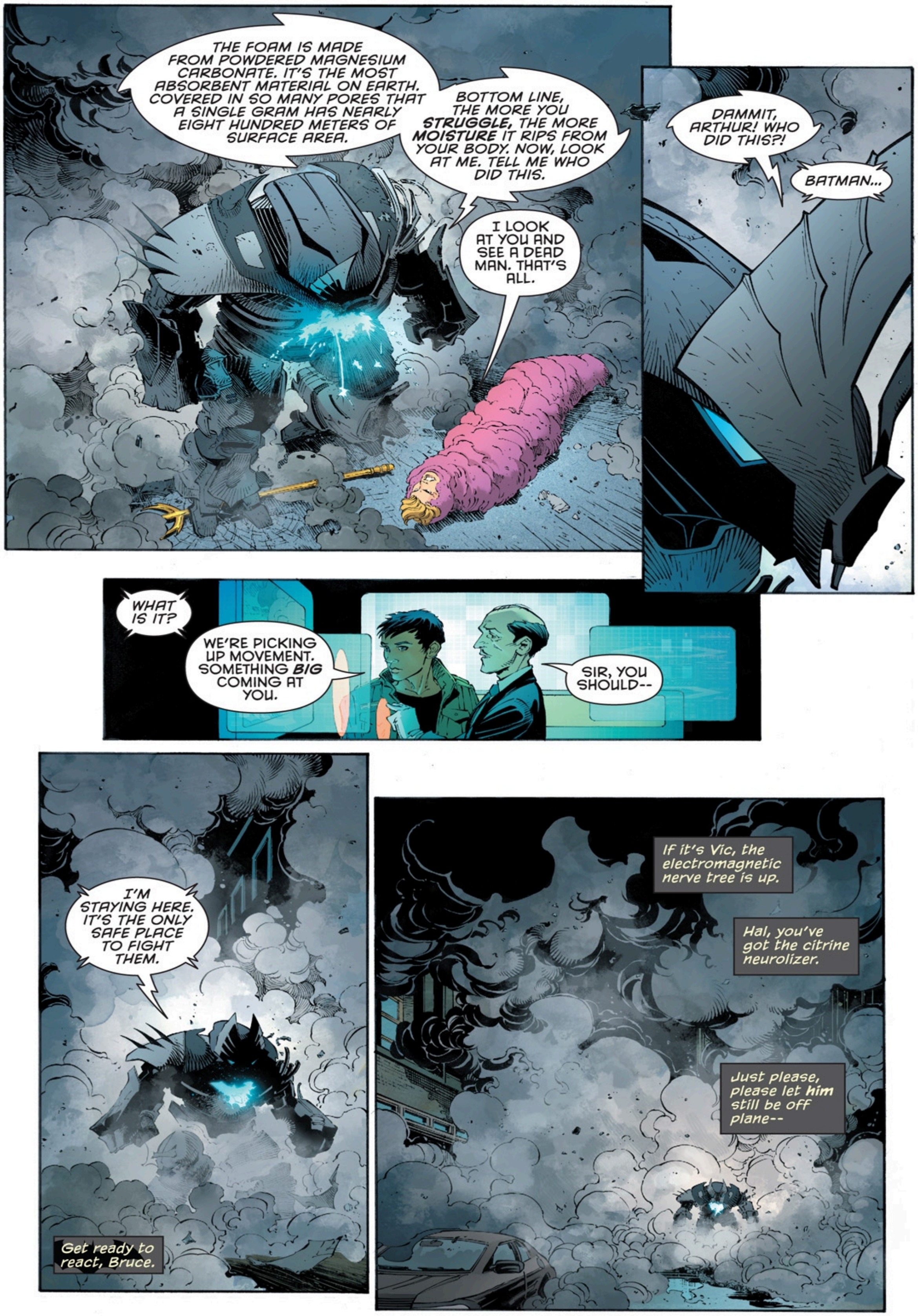

She's right.
She's a warrior of truth.
So the only to beat her is with a **lie.**
The relic is called the "bind of veils," and it was woven by Hephaestus in a moment of doubt, not long after he forged her **lasso.** He used an inverted version of the same weave.
It's said to be made from wool from the sheep Odysseus' men used to trick the Cyclops. It took me nearly two years to track it down on the magical black market.
The suit isn't just armor.
It's designed for **war.** With the most powerful heroes on the planet.
BASE. ARE YOU PICKING UP ANY OTHERS?
NEGATIVE SIR, NOTHING Y...

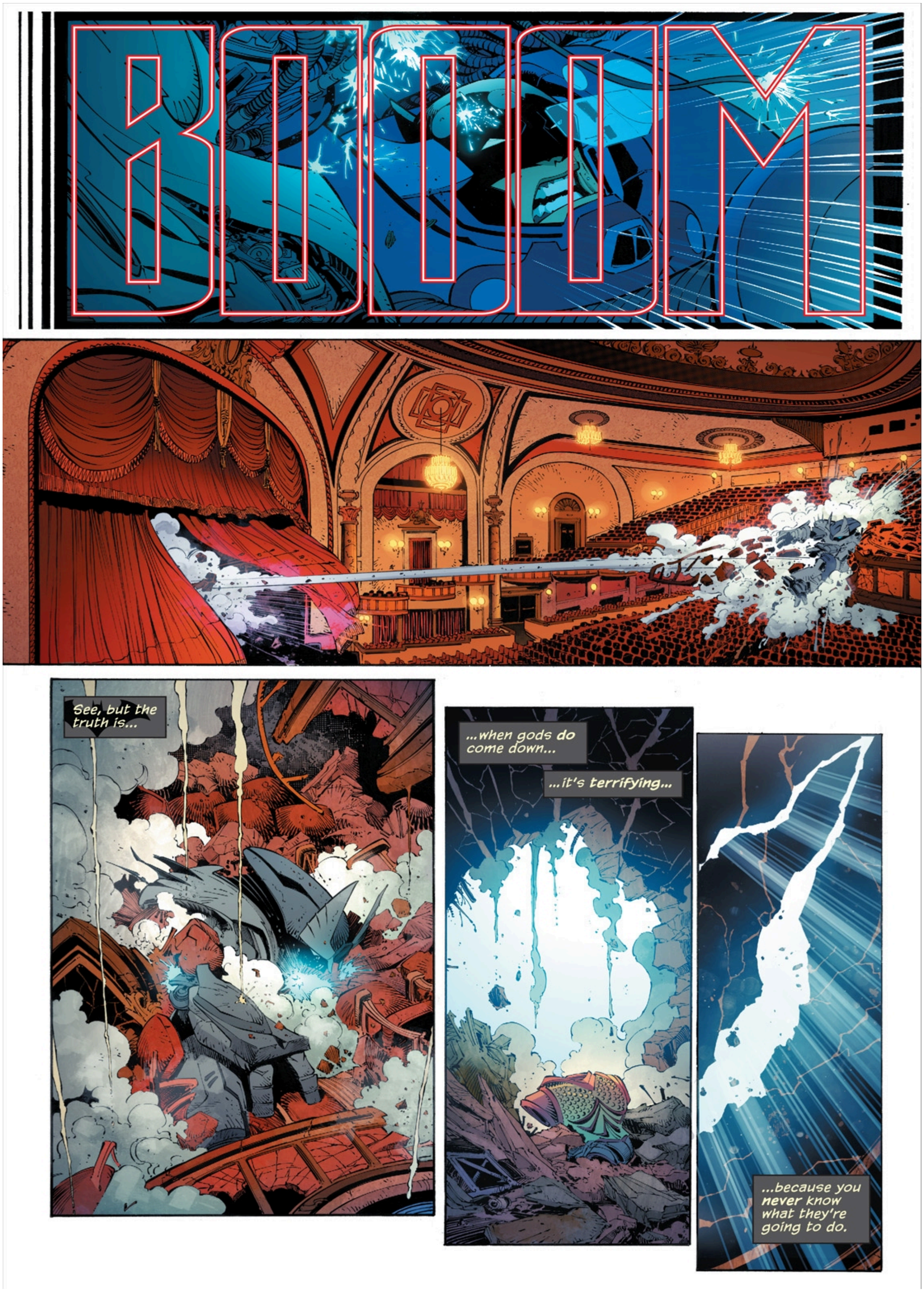

"...YYYYYEEEEEE...
"...EEEEEE..."
"...EEEEEETTTTTTTTTT."
RRRRRRRUUUUUNNNNNNN RRREEEEEDDDDDDDDDD

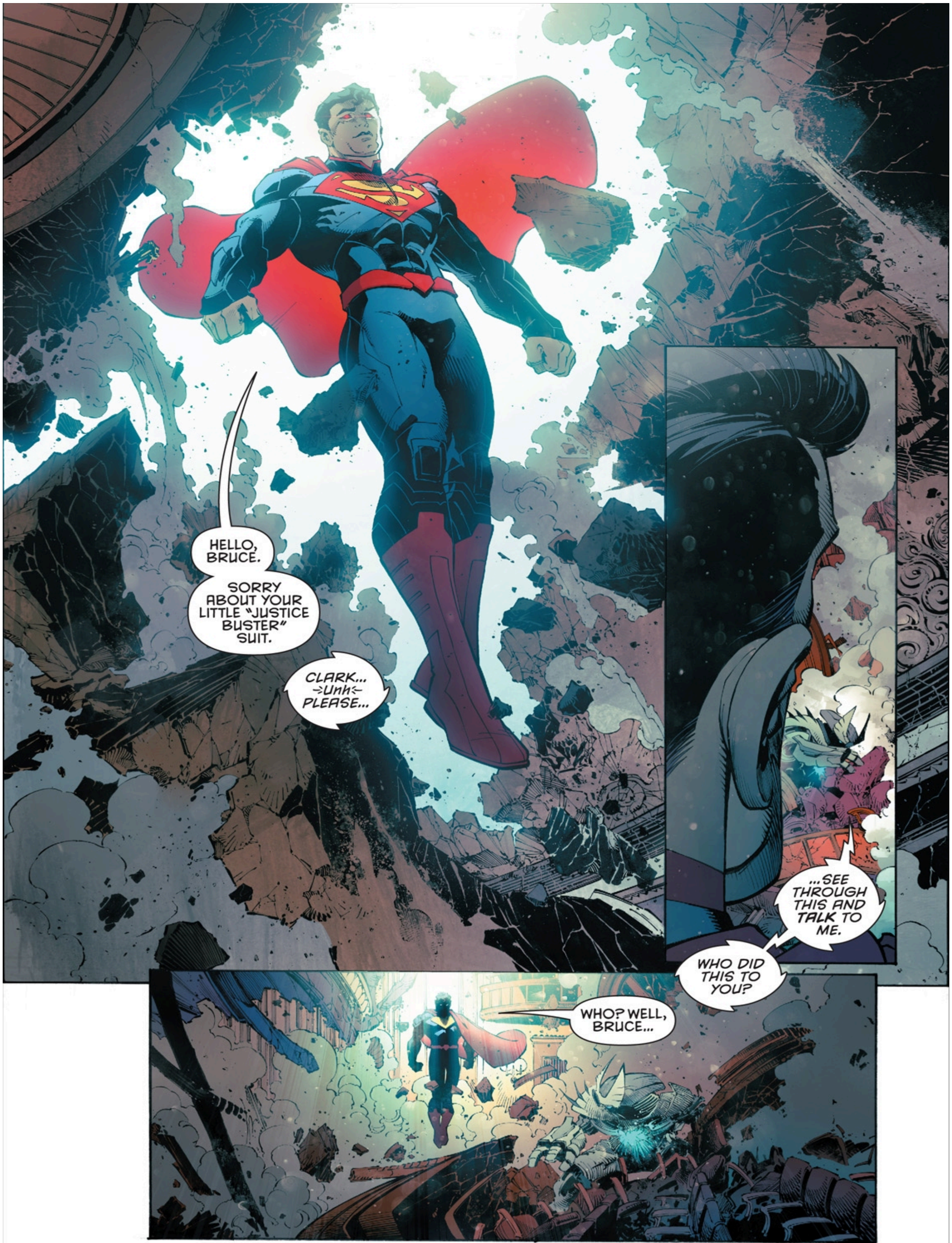

This next part happens faster than I can **process** it.
I've put more money into this suit than about sixty percent of the world's nations put into their respective militaries. And a good deal of that money went towards a protocol for **one** man...
...making sure the **servers** were fast enough for him...
...faster than **any** human reaction...
...fast enough to map his movements, assuming he wasn't at optimal speed...

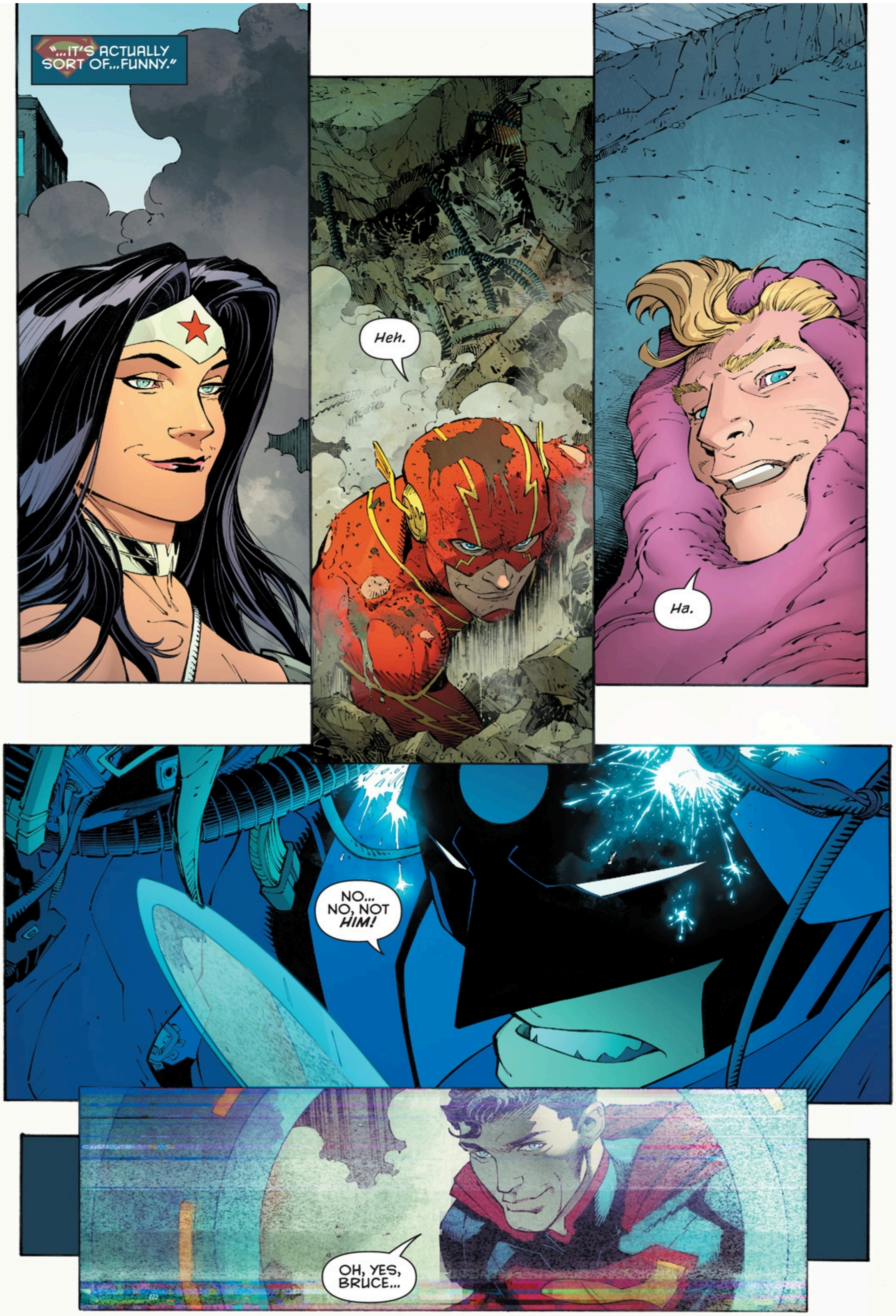

...and then fire the frictionless **coating**...
...**exactly** where it needs to be...
...before he can react. The strike is so fast...
...the whole thing is over before I even **know** it.
BRUCE.
TNK

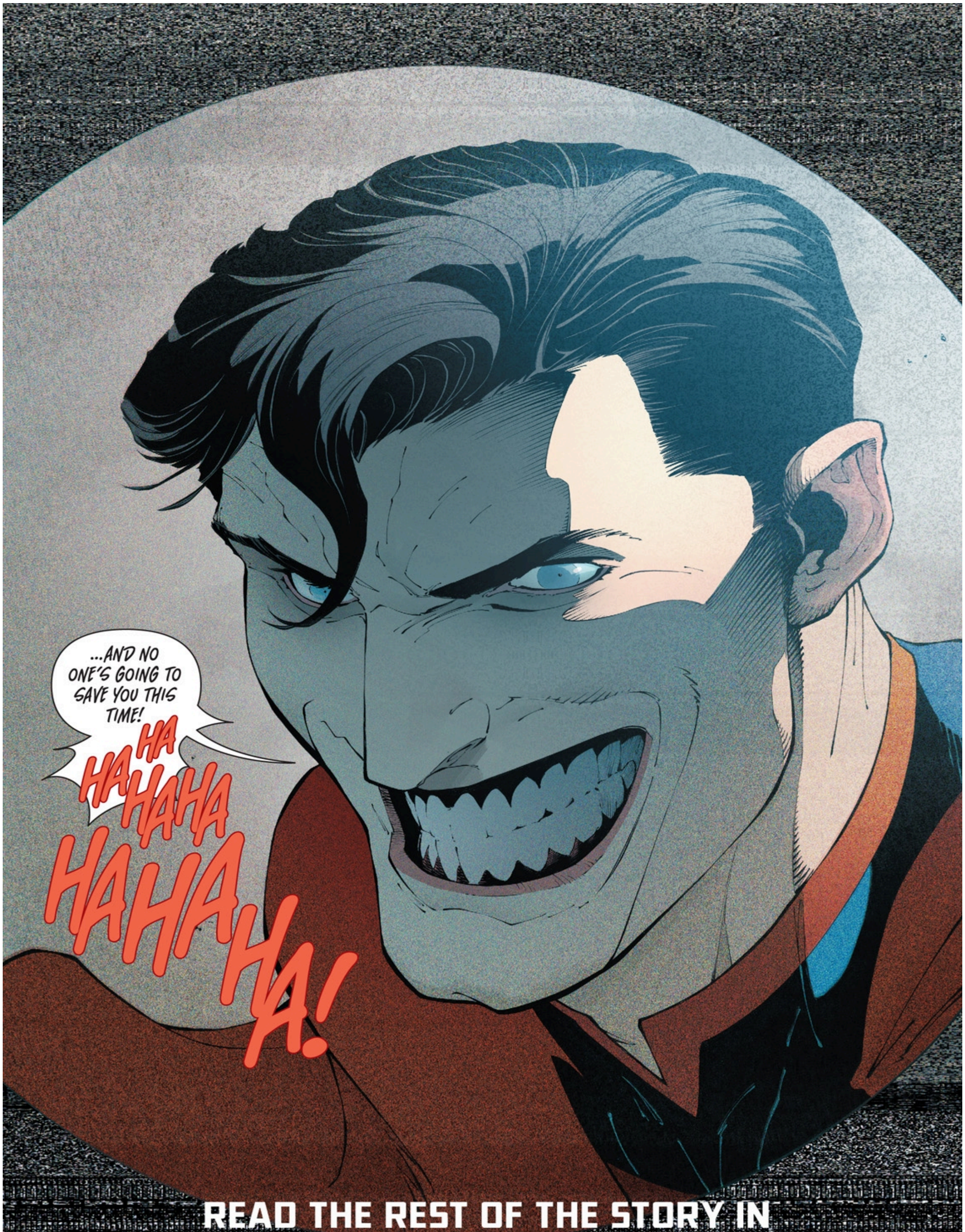

Diana. Barry. Now *Arthur...*
It's too much for any human telepath. And Diana's defenses against magic...who the hell is *doing* this?
...ENOUGH *TRICKS* AND GADGETS.
NOW TURN AND FACE ME LIKE YOU HAVE SOME DAMN *HONOR,* AND WE'LL--
FFFFFT
THAT'S THE THING, ARTHUR. THERE'S NO HONOR IN A STREET FIGHT.


THE FOAM IS MADE FROM POWDERED MAGNESIUM CARBONATE. IT'S THE MOST ABSORBENT MATERIAL ON EARTH. COVERED IN SO MANY PORES THAT A SINGLE GRAM HAS NEARLY EIGHT HUNDRED METERS OF SURFACE AREA.
BOTTOM LINE, THE MORE YOU **STRUGGLE,** THE MORE **MOISTURE** IT RIPS FROM YOUR BODY. NOW, LOOK AT ME. TELL ME WHO DID THIS.
I LOOK AT YOU AND SEE A DEAD MAN. THAT'S ALL.
DAMMIT, ARTHUR! WHO DID THIS?!
BATMAN...
WHAT IS IT?
WE'RE PICKING UP MOVEMENT. SOMETHING ***BIG*** COMING AT YOU.
SIR, YOU SHOULD--
I'M STAYING HERE. IT'S THE ONLY SAFE PLACE TO FIGHT THEM.
Get ready to react, Bruce.
If it's Vic, the electromagnetic nerve tree is up.
Hal, you've got the citrine neurolizer.
*Just please, please let **him** still be off plane--*

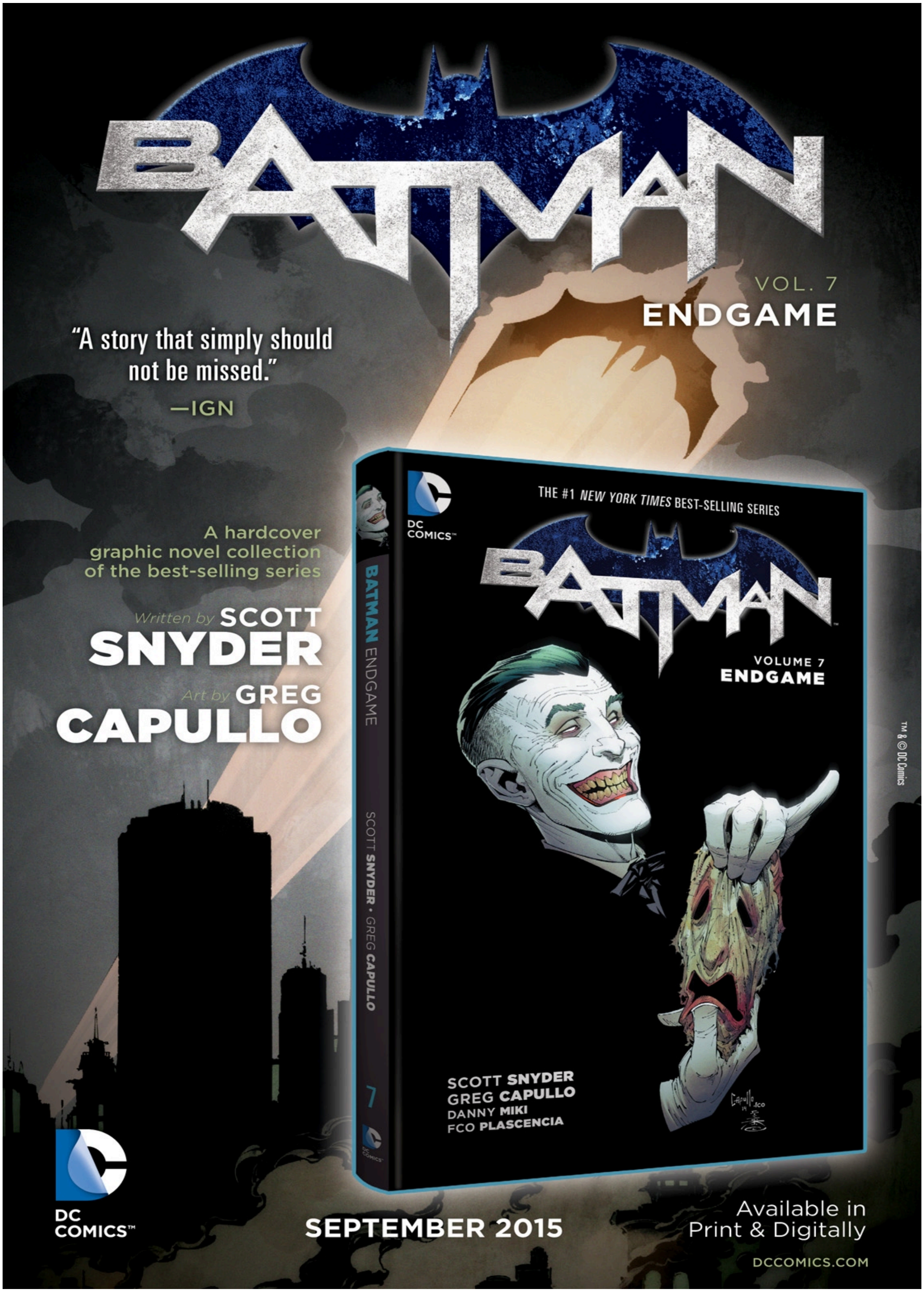

BOOOM
See, but the truth is...
...when gods do come down...
...it's terrifying...
...because you never know what they're going to do.


HELLO, BRUCE.
SORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE "JUSTICE BUSTER" SUIT.
CLARK... -Unh- PLEASE...
...SEE THROUGH THIS AND TALK TO ME.
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?
WHO? WELL, BRUCE...


"...IT'S ACTUALLY SORT OF...FUNNY."
Heh.
Ha.
NO... NO, NOT *HIM!*
OH, YES, BRUCE...


...AND NO ONE'S GOING TO SAVE YOU THIS TIME!
HA HA HAHA HAHAHAHA!

READ THE REST OF THE STORY IN
THE BATMAN VOL. 7: ENDGAME GRAPHIC NOVEL
ON SALE NOW!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7

BATMAN

VOL. 7
ENDGAME

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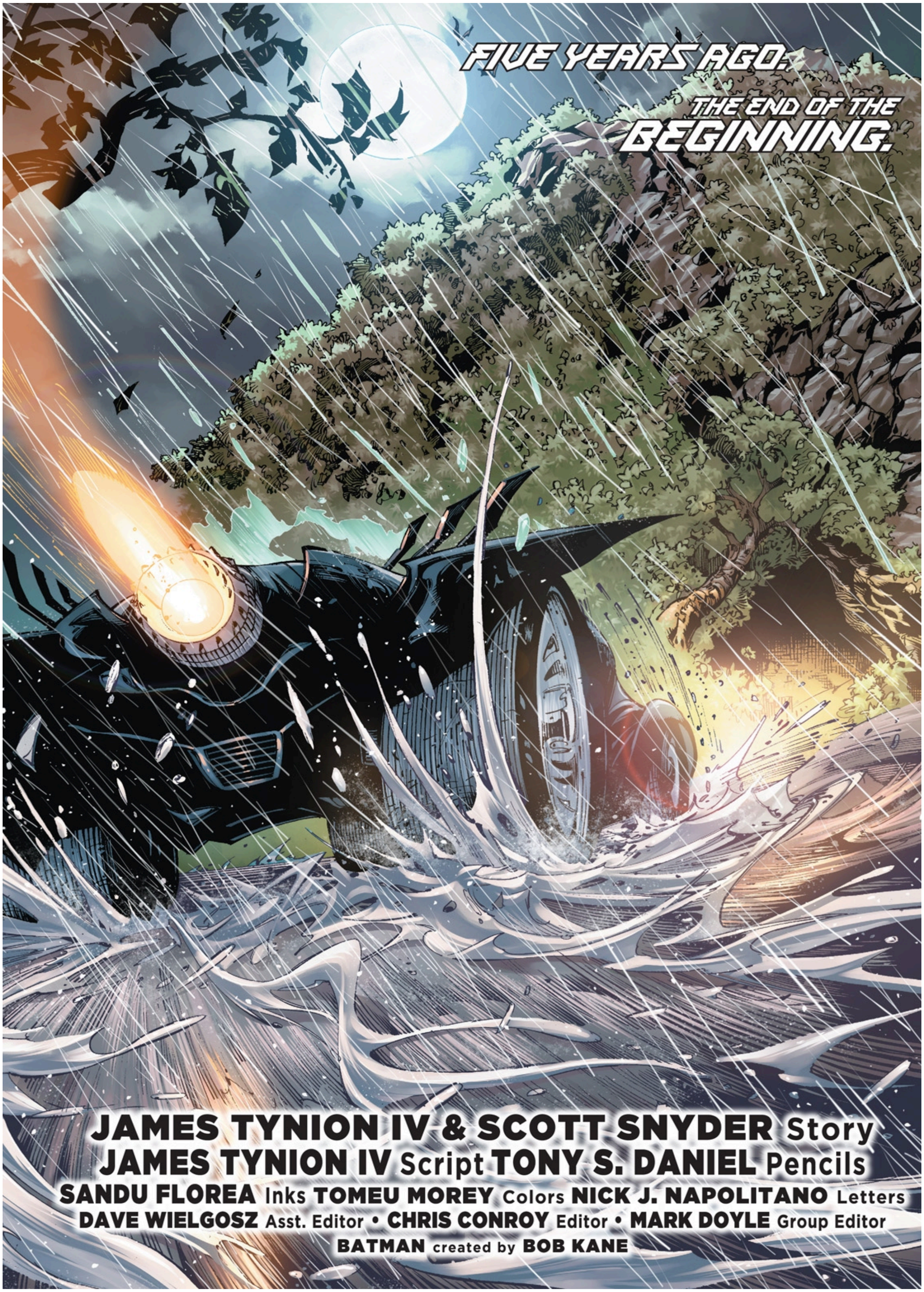

THE END OF THE BEGINNING.

JAMES TYNION IV & SCOTT SNYDER Story
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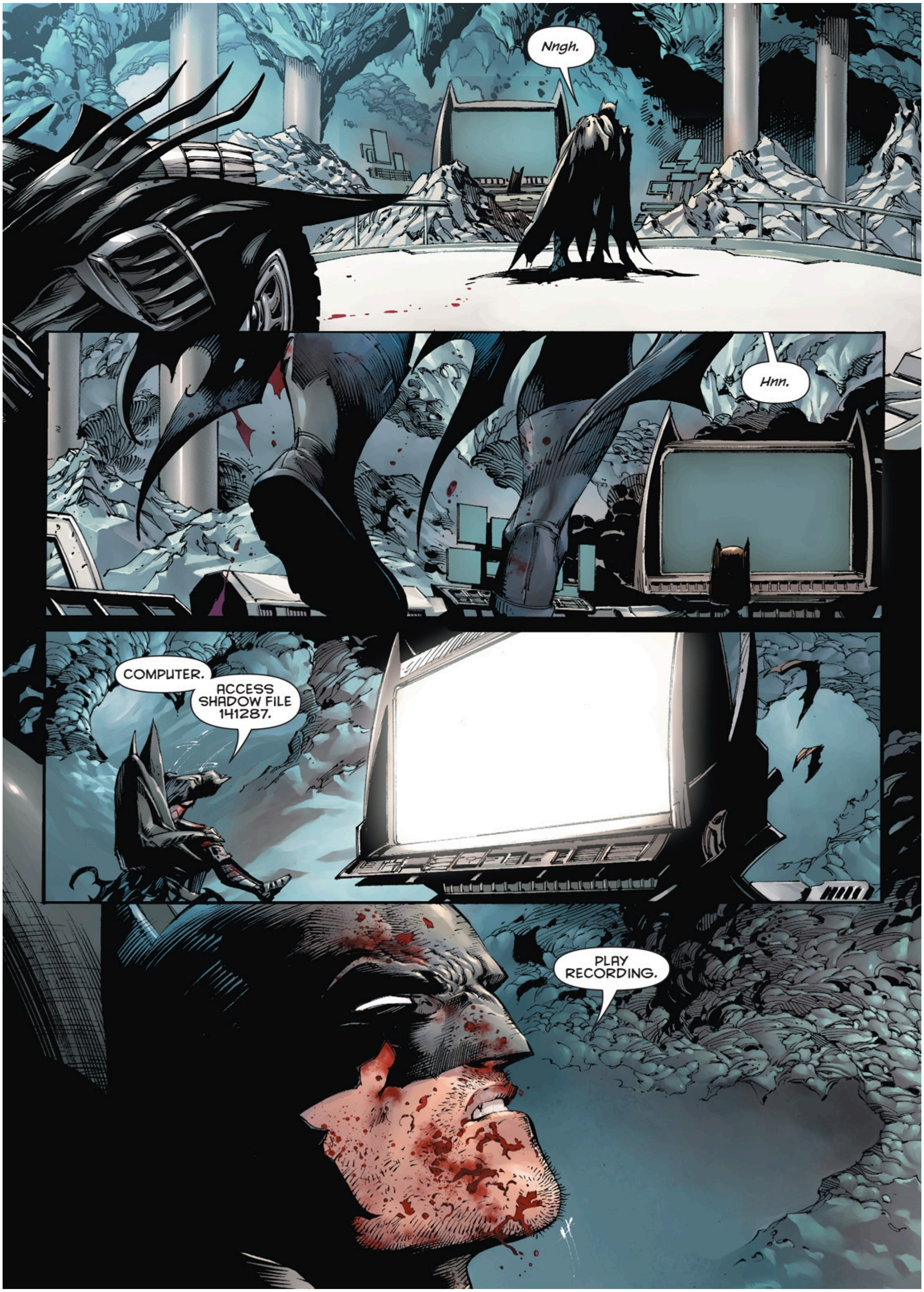
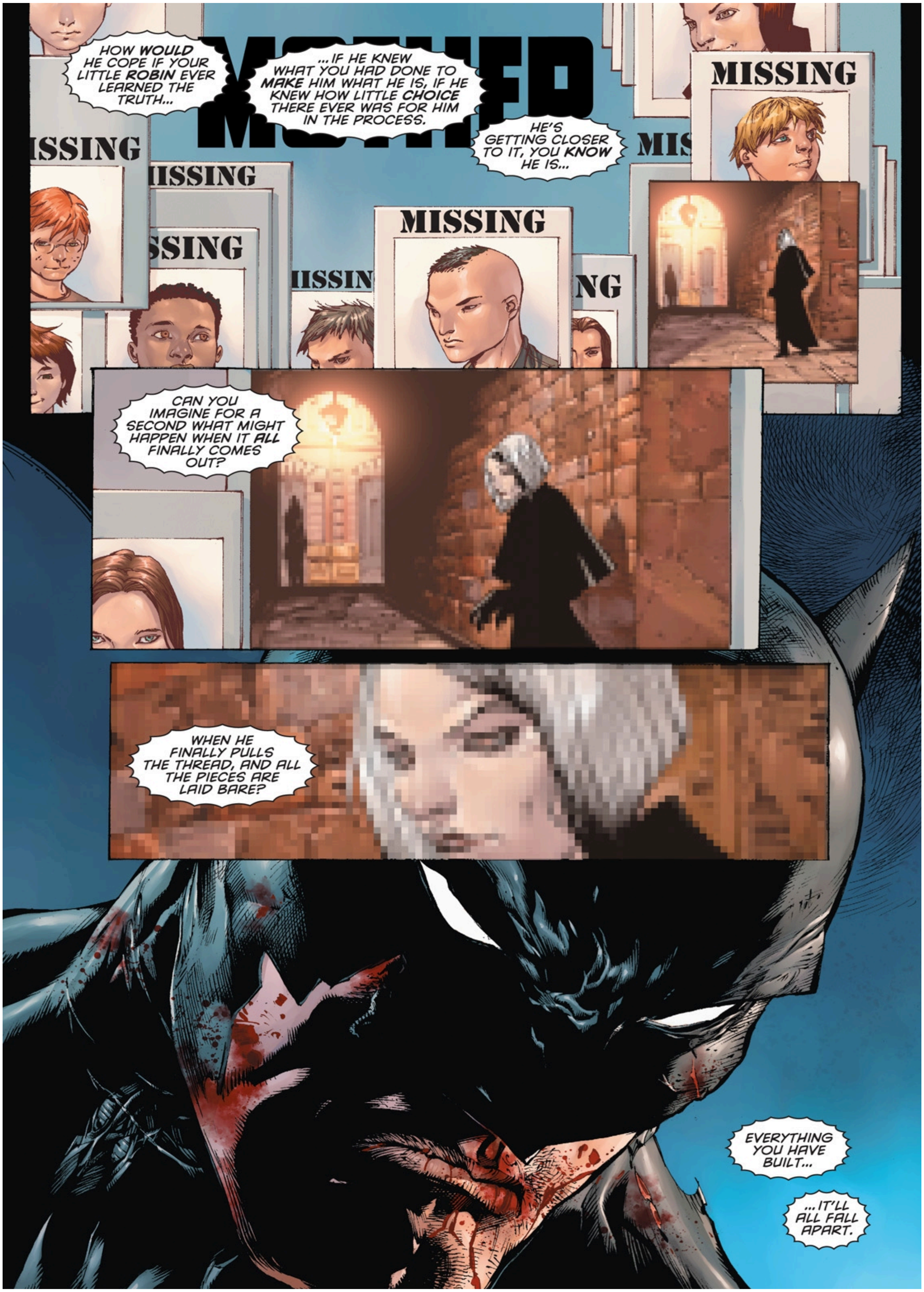
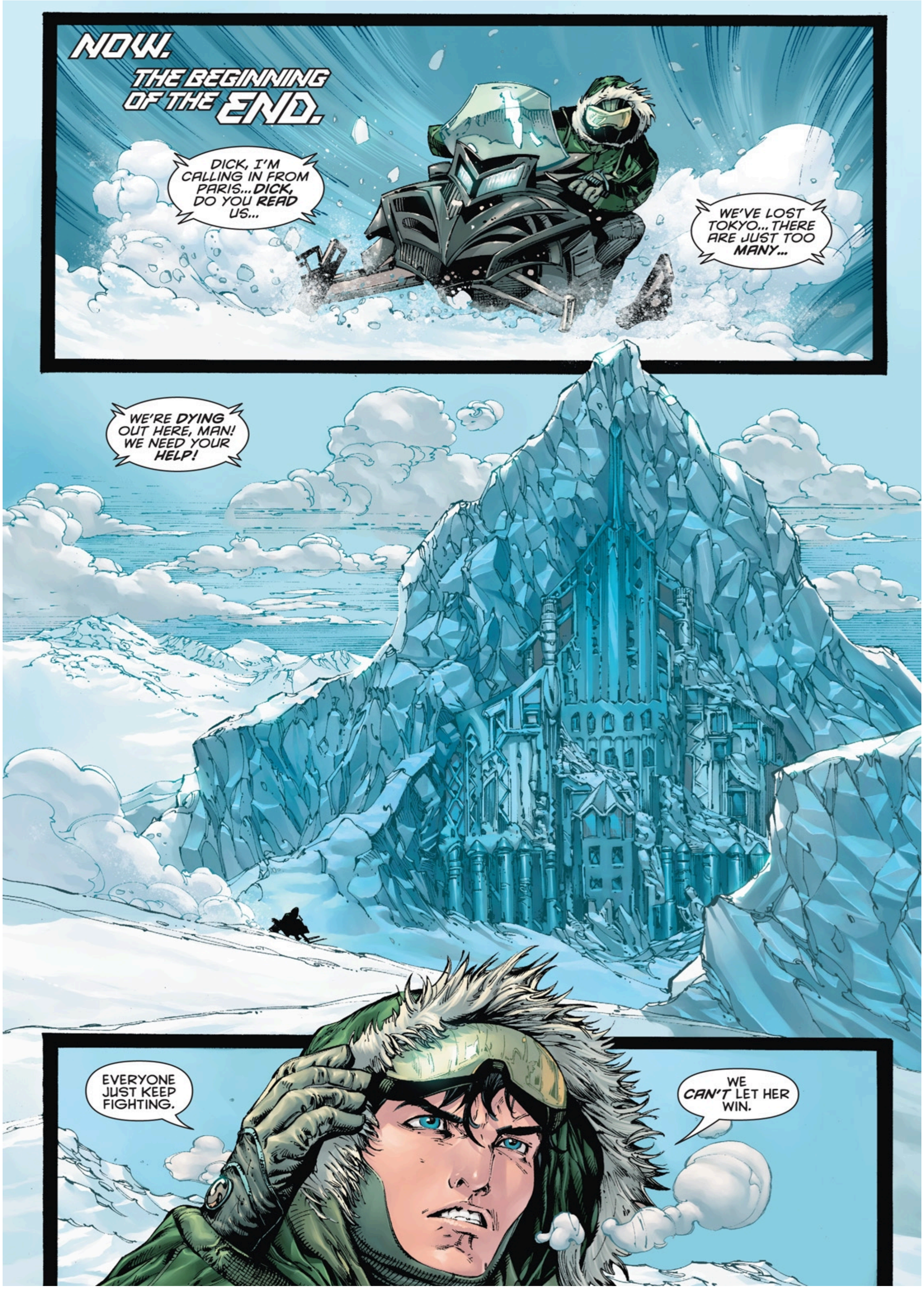
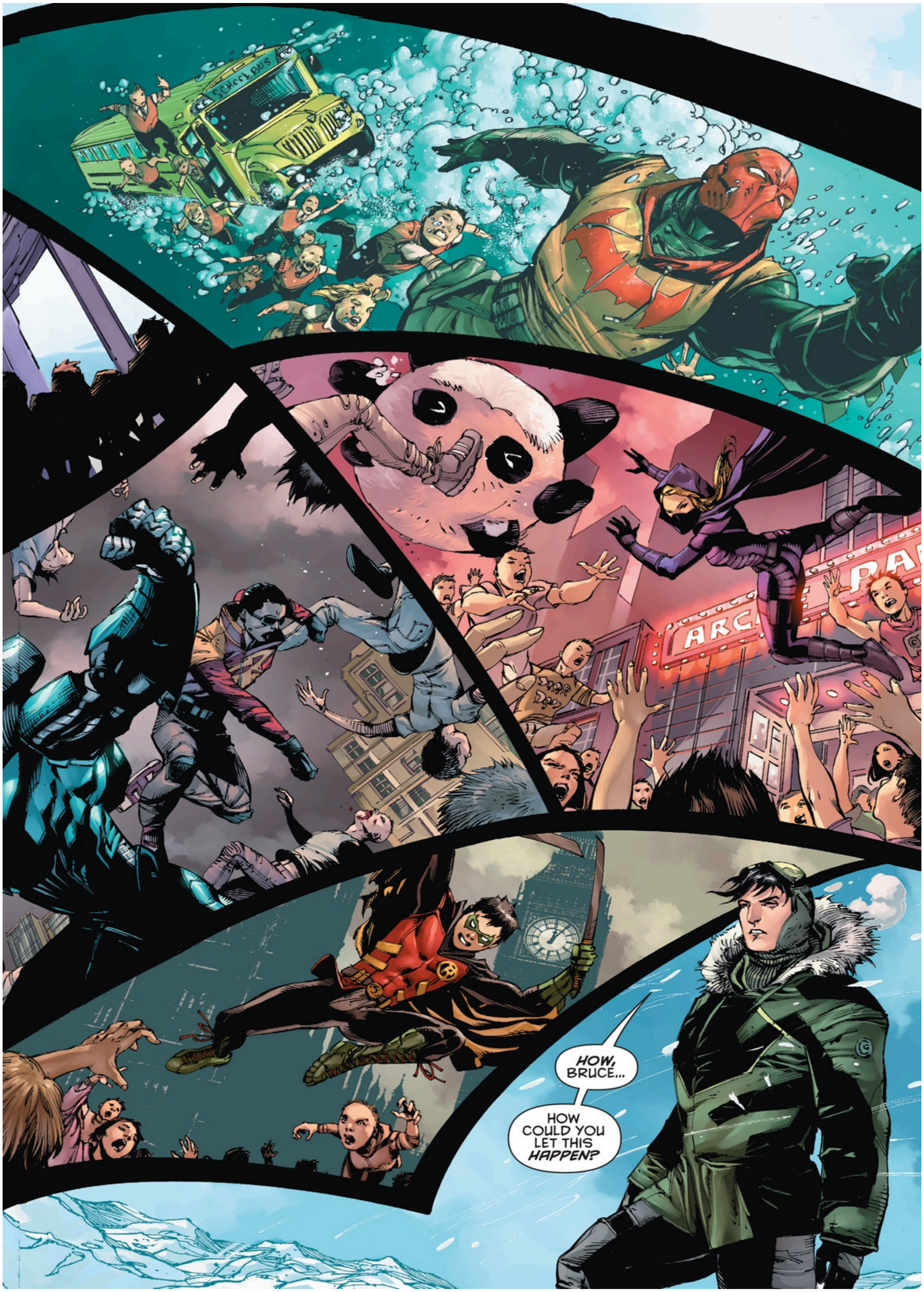
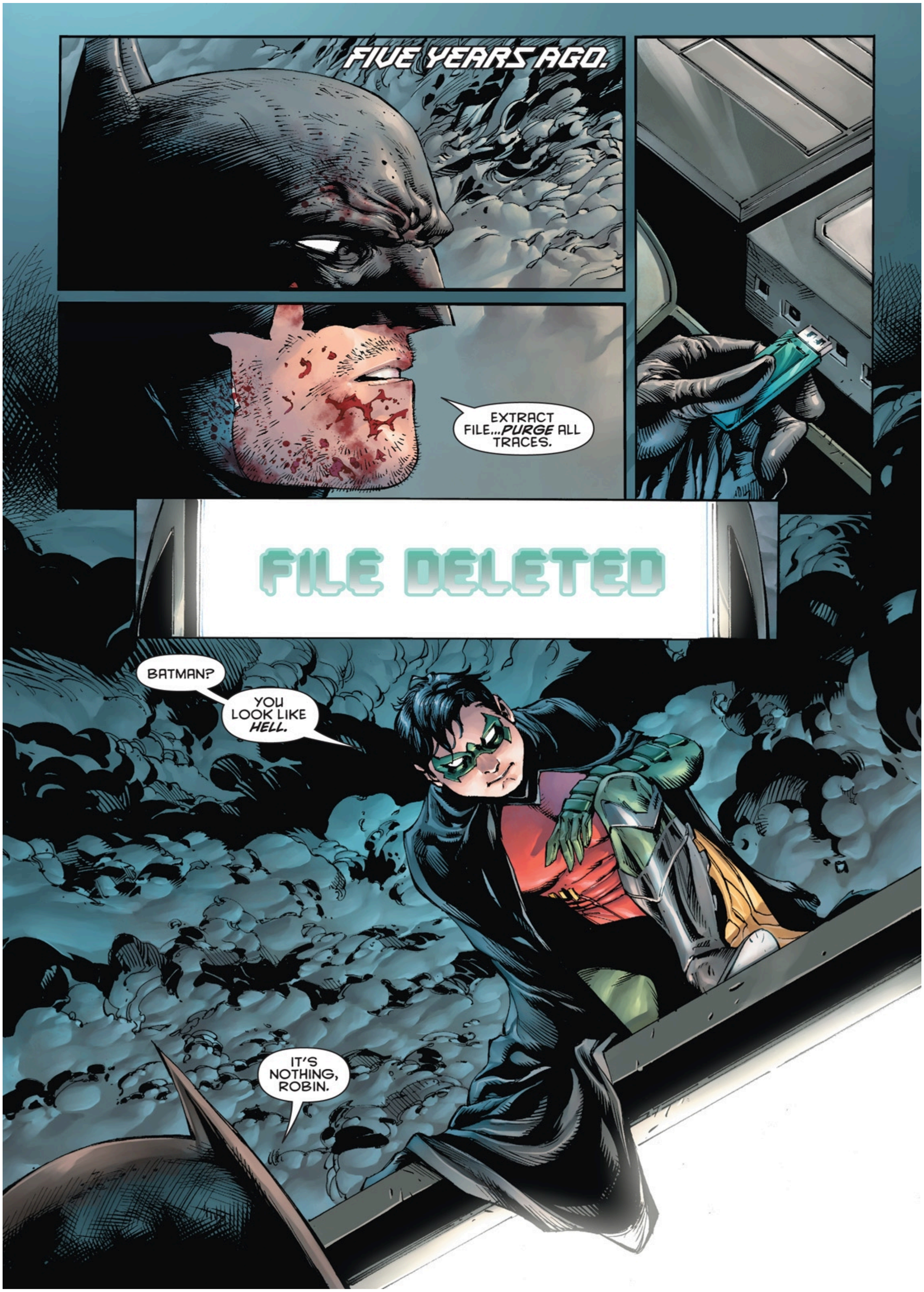
SANDU FLOREA Inks **TOMEU MOREY** Colors **NICK J. NAPOLITANO** Letters
DAVE WIELGOSZ Asst. Editor • **CHRIS CONROY** Editor • **MARK DOYLE** Group Editor
BATMAN created by **BOB KANE**

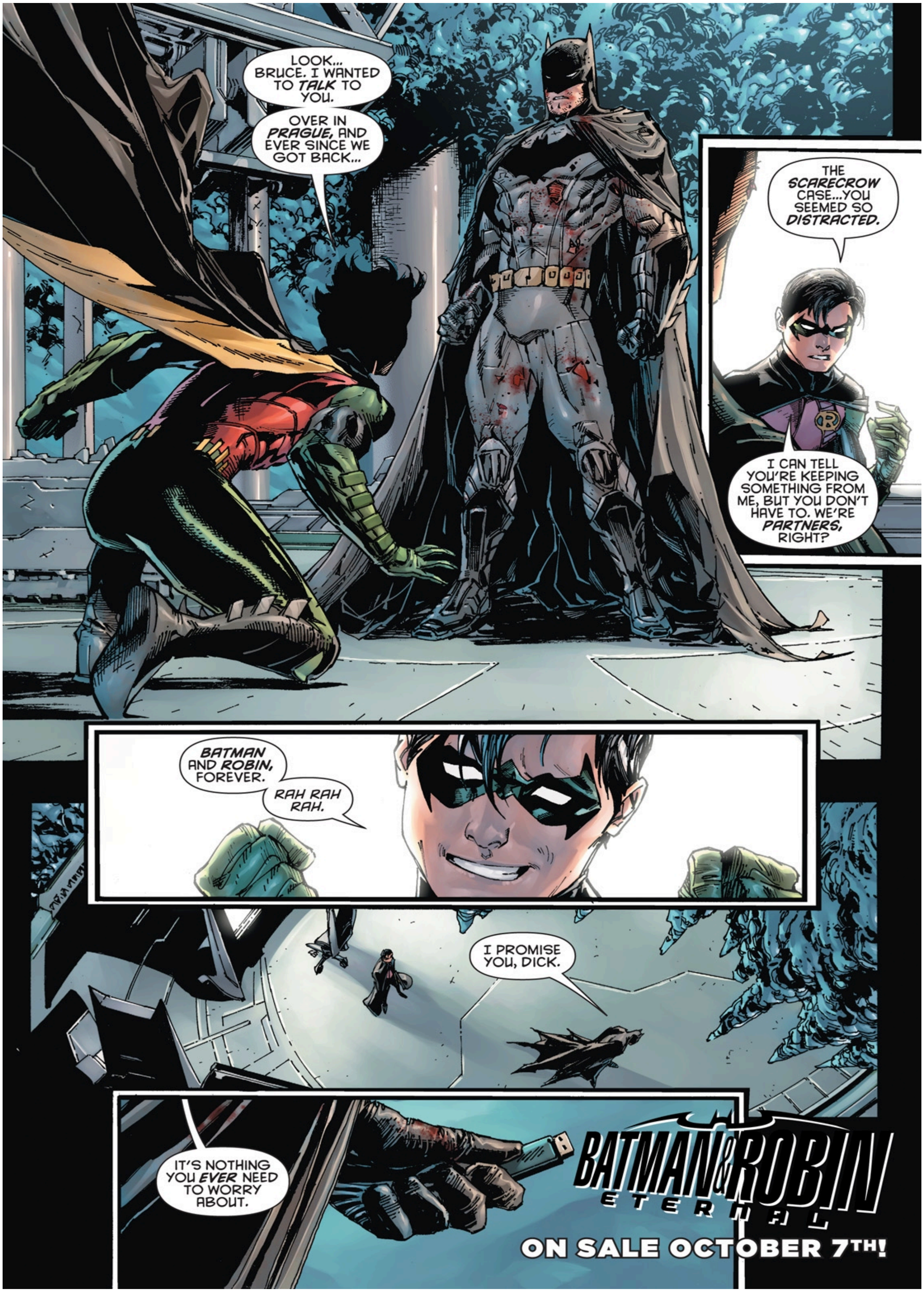

Nngh.
Hnn.
COMPUTER.
ACCESS SHADOW FILE 141287.
PLAY RECORDING.


HOW **WOULD** HE COPE IF YOUR LITTLE **ROBIN** EVER LEARNED THE TRUTH...
...IF HE KNEW WHAT YOU HAD DONE TO **MAKE** HIM WHAT HE IS, IF HE KNEW HOW LITTLE **CHOICE** THERE EVER WAS FOR HIM IN THE PROCESS.
HE'S GETTING CLOSER TO IT, YOU **KNOW** HE IS...
MISSING
MISSING
CAN YOU IMAGINE FOR A SECOND WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN WHEN IT **ALL** FINALLY COMES OUT?
WHEN HE FINALLY PULLS THE THREAD, AND ALL THE PIECES ARE LAID BARE?
EVERYTHING YOU HAVE BUILT...
...IT'LL ALL FALL APART.


NOW.
THE BEGINNING OF THE END.
DICK, I'M CALLING IN FROM PARIS...DICK, DO YOU READ US...
WE'VE LOST TOKYO... THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY...
WE'RE DYING OUT HERE, MAN! WE NEED YOUR HELP!
EVERYONE JUST KEEP FIGHTING.
WE CAN'T LET HER WIN.


SCHOOL BUS
HOW, BRUCE...
HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?


FIVE YEARS AGO.
EXTRACT FILE...*PURGE* ALL TRACES.
FILE DELETED
BATMAN?
YOU LOOK LIKE *HELL.*
IT'S NOTHING, ROBIN.


LOOK... BRUCE. I WANTED TO *TALK* TO YOU.
OVER IN *PRAGUE,* AND EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK...
THE *SCARECROW* CASE...YOU SEEMED SO *DISTRACTED.*
I CAN TELL YOU'RE KEEPING SOMETHING FROM ME, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO. WE'RE *PARTNERS,* RIGHT?
BATMAN AND *ROBIN,* FOREVER.
RAH RAH RAH.
I PROMISE YOU, DICK.
IT'S NOTHING YOU *EVER* NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.
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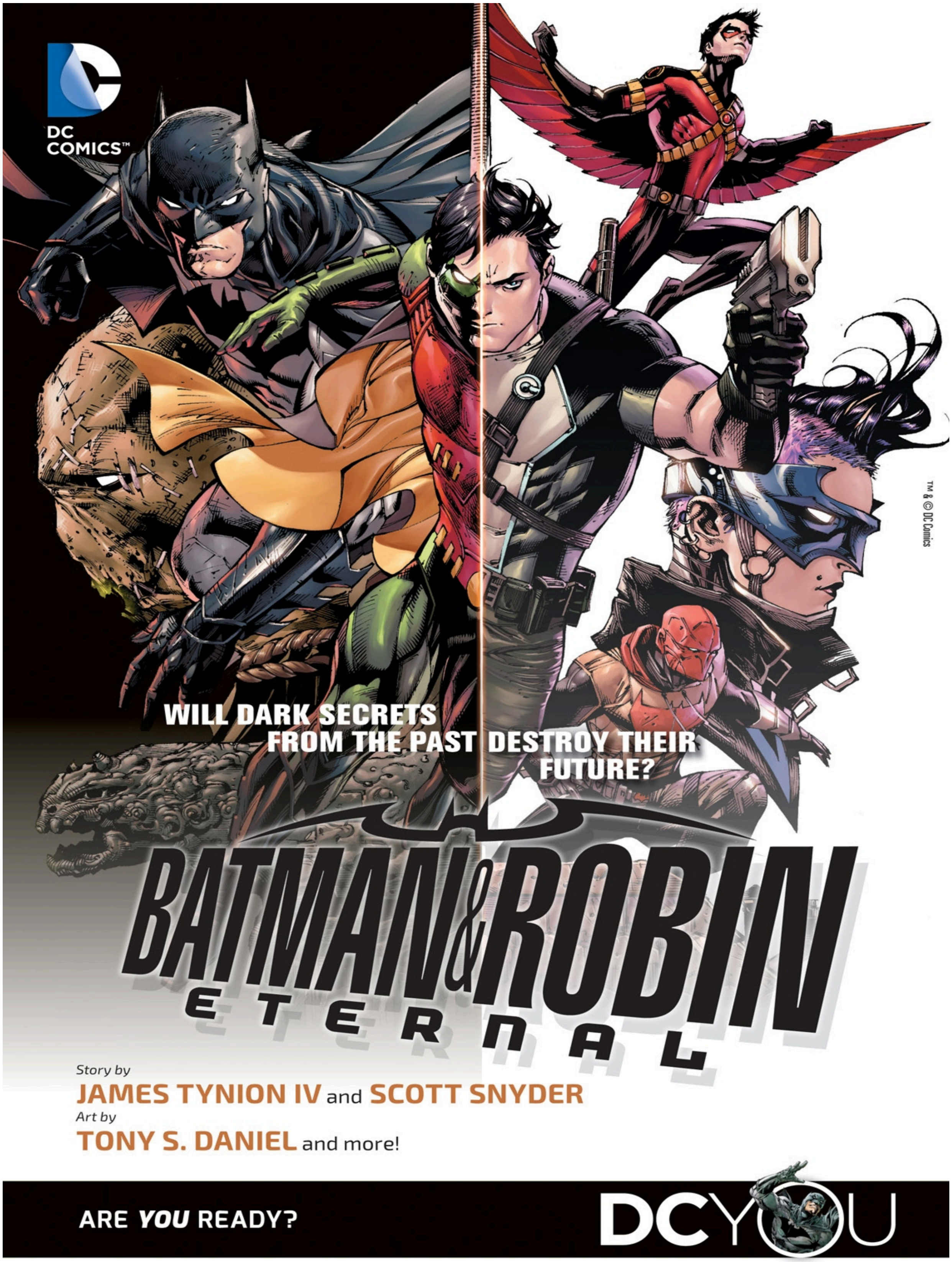
ON SALE OCTOBER 7TH!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